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PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

EVERYTHING'S COMING UP CHRISTMAS Fireworks light up the sky on Friday over San Juan where a 50-year-old tradition—the COD Christmas display—continues at Greenhills Shopping Center to signal the start of the holidays. The popular tableau, which started at the COD department store on Rizal Ave. in Manila and later in Cubao, Quezon City, was transferred to Greenhills when the old department store closed down in 2003.

P-Noy: It only just began

Rallies public in drive to make guilty accountable

SMILES IN PARADISE US President Barack Obama shares a light moment with President Aquino and other leaders in the region during Saturday's group picture taking of the 6th East Asia Summit at Bali International Convention Center in Bali, Indonesia, which was held after a similar summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean). Also in photo are (from left) South Korean President Lee Myung-bak, Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, Sultan of Brunei Haji Hassanal Bolkiah and Burmese Prime Minister Thein Sein. MALACAÑANG PHOTO

By Christian V. Esguerra

IT ONLY just began.

Fresh from his trip to Indonesia, President Aquino last night rallied the public behind his administration's effort to prosecute former President and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for alleged electoral sabotage, while promising to accord her due process.

"She will have an equal opportunity to defend herself in court because that is the right of every Filipino," he said in Filipino in his arrival statement at the Villamor Air Base in Pasay City.

"That is the process that a vendor or driver, teacher or garbage collector, cop or clerk, from the highest position down to the ordinary person, should all go through—taking no sides, simply focused on the search for truth and making the guilty accountable."

The President, who said he was updated on events leading to Arroyo's arrest even while he was attending the Association of Southeast Asian Nations forum in Bali, Indonesia, expressed confidence that the Filipino people were behind his effort to prosecute those behind alleged election fraud in the past.

"This is just the start of the process. And it is very good to know that even from the start, even while I was outside the country, you are all behind me, especially on this issue," he said.

"I know that I am not alone. As I think about your welfare, you continue to give me strength."

Mr. Aquino said the prosecution of Arroyo was the result of the "reform I have laid out to combat corruption."

"The core principle of this reform program is this—the guilty should be made accountable because if not, it would be like we have kept the door open for anyone who would want to abuse our people."

P-NOY, A4

No holds barred for Leila, woman with balls

By Nikko Dizon

JUSTICE Secretary Leila de Lima's passion for her work cost her her marriage years ago.

Today, a college friend, Judge Marilou Pieres-Tanseng, is not surprised that De Lima is again risking everything for the job that she seemed to do.

"She believes in what is right and she speaks from the heart and what she believes in. And she will die for it," Tanseng, who has known De Lima for over two decades, told the Inquirer on Friday.

The two women cofounded the Lambda Phi Sigma Sorority at the San Beda College of Law.

On the phone yesterday with the Inquirer, De Lima described herself exactly the way her friend did.

"It's always been my task to focus on a particular thing or challenge that confronts me, and I really try to do the right thing. I gather enough will to do what I believe I am supposed to do," she said.

De Lima, 51, candidly admitted as far back as 2007 that her concentration on her career and passion as a lawyer had led to the collapse of her marriage.

But she and her former husband remain friends, and they are "coparents" to their two sons, Israel and Nicanor.

NO HOLDS A10

Palace: If TRO not final, how can De Lima be held in contempt? / A10

GMA mug shots while hooked to IV drip

By Tarra Quismundo and Cynthia D. Balana

AS HEAD of state she was honored in state banquets and greeted with military salutes, but yesterday she was booked on charges of electoral sabotage, becoming the second ex-Philippine President to be detained on criminal allegations.

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, now a representative of Pampanga, was not only wearing a neck brace over her hospital gown but was also hypertensive, "frail-looking" and hooked to an IV drip when she went through the standard booking procedure, police said.

"We proceeded to [her] room. We took her photographs, portrait and

GMA MUG A11

Midas touch not working on SC justice

By Jerome Aning

WHILE the Supreme Court upheld on Friday its temporary restraining order (TRO) on the government's reclusion of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her husband Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo to the immigration watch list, the TRO was not really effective yet because one of its conditions was not met.

This was the contention advanced by Associate Justice Ma. Lourdes Sereno in her dissenting opinion, to which the chided Court Administrator Jose Midas Marquez for incorrectly interpreting the high court's resolution. Marquez is also the acting chief of the tribunal's Public Information Office (PIO).

In her nine-page dissent, copies of which were made available late Friday afternoon, Sereno contended

MIDAS A10

Poll sabotage raps sicken Abalos, rushed to hospital

By Kristine Felisse Mangunay

BENJAMIN Abalos Sr., the former Commission on Elections (Comelec) chair, was taken ill and rushed to a hospital upon learning that he would be charged in the same electoral sabotage case brought against former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

But his son, Mandaluyong City Mayor Benhur Abalos, said the 77-year-old

POLL A3

22nd Ad Congress ends in flourish of 'coopetition'

By Juan Escandor Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

NAGA CITY—Having pulled off a gathering of more than 2,000 in a place where no convention of that size had ever been held before, the organizers of the 22nd Philippine Ad Congress (AdCongress22) were moved to declare this year's edition of the ad congress as "the most successful" so far.

Analiz Kalaw, the chair of the Advertising Board of the Philippines (Adboard), said they all learned a lot from the biennial gathering that ended here yesterday and which had even inspired him to coin the word "coopetition" to describe the spirit that should prevail among rival agencies.

LOCAL NEWS A4

WHAT'S INSIDE

WORLD • **Husband** accused as Natalie Wood death probe revived **NEWS** • **Senate** to continue probe of GMA in poll cheating • **BIR** to go after 5-6 leaders **GLOBAL PINOY** • **Loida** Lewis, 1st Fil-Am to get Eleanor Roosevelt legacy award **ENTERTAINMENT** • **Sharon** Cuneta leaving ABS-CBN by Jan. 2012 • **Plump** actress endures abusive politico **LIFESTYLE** • **'White** wine helped me survive cancer' • **How** Sofitel made it through the rain • **Marioris** Zobel says 'no' to fillers, 'yes' to UST Christmas Concert Gala

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

6/49		
Lotto	14	2
6/42	2	19
6/45	1	14
SUPER 6/55		
Lotto	4	2	3
6/42	4	2	5
6/45	9	4	8

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GMA drama a distraction in Bali

P-Noy forced to skip meeting, gala

By TJ Burgonio

PRESIDENT Aquino

BALI, Indonesia—President Aquino was on the phone with key Cabinet officials on Friday during breaks in a packed schedule here to check on whether or not trouble was brewing in Manila over the arrest of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in her hospital suite.

"He was on the phone with the executive secretary (Paquito Ochoa), the justice secretary (Leila de Lima), Presidential Security Group (Jhudge Secretary Florencio Mist), just making sure that the actions on the ground in Manila were proper, legal and coordinated," Communications Secretary Ricky Carandang told reporters yesterday.

The traffic moved smoothly in between subsidiary meetings at the 18th Sancharan Asian Business (Asean) Summit on this resort island, Carandang said.

But Mr. Aquino had far more troubling concerns later because he decided to leave for his hotel after finishing the formal Asean-United States Meeting with US President Barack Obama to attend the same time that news was being broadcast that police were serving the warrant for the arrest of the 64-year-old Arroyo on Friday afternoon.

"There had been stories of people trying to make trouble. I think over time they got word the cases were being built up, they'd been trying to make trouble," Carandang explained, apparently referring to the Arroyo camp.

But he was quick to dispel any notion of lowering dreadfulization.

"I don't think it does to that level. But I think it has a lot to do with misinformation, disinformation and, basically, souring some sentiments and trying to undermine the political support for the President. It's been happening a little earlier than that," he said.

Otherwise, he added, "everything was under control."

Despite officials' claims to the contrary, Mr. Aquino had been distracted by the brouhaha over the Arroyo detainee.

He skipped the bilateral meeting with United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on Friday afternoon and later the 8 p.m. gala dinner hosted by Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, and the 10 p.m. one-to-one with Filipino journalists.

He earlier missed Thursday morning's opening ceremony and plenary session of the annual summit of the 10 nation-Asean. Carandang stood in for Mr. Aquino at both events.

Carandang explained that the meeting between Arroyo leaders and Obama ended late and Ban Ki-moon had to leave early so Mr. Aquino decided to skip the bilateral meeting with the UN chief. Ban Ho-sup, Secretary Albert del Rosario said Mr. Aquino had no excuse himself on upcoming issue.

In his absence at the gala dinner, where Asia Pacific leaders, including Obama, showed up in fresh attire, Mr. Aquino explained his wardrobe in Iloilo "Hellboyish."

"He was very candid. He said there were documents that needed to be distilled and dealt with right away and the Indonesian President expressed to Secretary Del Rosario that he understood very much. That was understandable," said Carandang.

Yesterday, on the last day of the summit, Mr. Aquino joined nationals meetings between Asean and the UN, between Asean and India, the summit of 16 East Asia Pacific nations, including the US and Russia, and the closing ceremony.

He also met with Lao Prime Minister Thongsing Thammavong, which marks his debut talks.

Carandang made the assurance that despite the distractions, Mr. Aquino did all right. "He's always been able to concentrate. He's been engaged in the sessions. That's not been a problem at all," he said.

Mr. Aquino was scheduled to fly back to Manila on Saturday night.

BIR to go after Indian money lenders to bike tax take

BANGALORE (27)—The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) plans to go after Indian nationals involved in money lending activities but admitted that it would not be easy to collect taxes from them.

Wenceslao Hemos, revenue district officer, said at least a dozen Indian nationals were suspected of involvement in money lending activities, mostly in small entrepreneurships here.

Hemos said they were outside the Indian nationals were not paying taxes and did not have business permits.

At least a dozen Indian nationals lending capitals to small business establishments, particularly restaurants, car-care stores and vegetable vendors can be seen roaming around the major thoroughfares in the afternoons to collect the daily payments from the debtors, he said.

Both Hemos said their problem was how to hold up cases against these Indian nationals.

"Only the Economic Intelligence Investigation Bureau (EIIB) based in the BIR main office has the authority to summon or invite foreign money lenders operating in various places in the country," he said.

The problem was that this office has been dissolved, Hemos said.

The only recourse, Hemos said, was for the BIR to get the testimonies of those who had borrowed money from the Indian money lenders.

"So will be facing a difficult task but we will do our best to run after these Indian nationals in Bangalorean and other towns in North Cotabato," Hemos said.

In Davao City, Rev Marie Rodrigo (Interim) urged Indian nationals to follow the law if they want to stay in the country.

Earlier, Indian nationals there had complained of racial by immigration agents.

"It's the right of the country to protect itself against undesirable aliens, so my advice to you is just follow the law and you'll be safe," Duterte said.

It was not clear how many Indian nationals do live in Davao City.

Even the Bureau of Immigration admitted it was having difficulty in determining their real number because some of them reportedly entered the country through the backdoor.

"There have been reports that some of them entered the country through Subic and they remain concentrated for, hence, the catch in the past weeks," Duterte said.

Police Senior Superintendent Carmelito Loreto, Inquirer Mindanao

Once moribund party finds new life with victories, coffee book

By Cathy Yamsuan

SOME 600 people gathered in a restaurant in Pasay City Thursday night as the Partido ng Demokratikong Pilipinas-Laban ng Bayan (PDP-Laban) marked its 30th anniversary with the launch of a coffee table book detailing the party's history.

It will be four more months before the party turns three decades old—on Feb. 6, 2012—but Chairman Nene Pimentel, the chairperson of PDP-Laban and now Vice President Jejomar Binay.

The party deemed it more proper to hold a celebration of the milestones on that historic date, 11/11/11.

"The late (Foreign Secretary) Blas Ople once called PDP-Laban a Volkswagen party because its members, all seasoned (politicians) trouble the long run," Binay noted that night.

But the Vice President and other party members were optimistic that changing political fortunes could come again for PDP-Laban in the forefront, as it once was years ago.

PDP-Laban is a marriage between two political parties—the Partido ng Demokratikong Pilipino (PDP) and Laban ng Bayan (Laban), established by the then imprisoned former Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. in the late 1970s and which fielded a Senate slate in an open challenge to the dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

On Feb. 6, 1982, PDP—composed of antidictatorship opportunists from Mindanao—was inaugurated at a national party rally for anticommunists held on Club Filipino in Cubao City.

"Because of our common adversary, it was on this occasion that the PDP and Laban formalized their merger," the leaders explained.

The respected former Sen. Lorenzo Tañada of Laban was chosen as honorary chair of the newly formed group.

For a good part of 1985, PDP-Laban was always present at rallies against the Marcos dictatorship.

Before Aquino's death on Aug. 21, 1983, PDP-Laban described its activities as "fruitful and meaningful ... because it was during this year when the party expanded very rapidly all over the country."

It had an education council with a nationwide network that engaged in "intensive teaching of the grassroots to enlighten [people] on governing political conditions."

Aquino's mentor put the party at the center of mass actions against Marcos' strongman rule.

In 1986, Aquino's widow, Corazon "Cory" Aquino, ran for president under the PDP-Laban banner in a snap election called by Marcos.

Her rise to power after the downfall of Marcos made PDP-Laban perhaps the most dominant political party on the island.

In the first days of her presidency, Cory Aquino abolished the Marcos-created Batasang Pambansa.

She also replaced all holdover local officials with officers in charge or OICs.

Two of PDP-Laban's top bunches were given major roles following this development: Binay was appointed Makati City mayor and Abdulmari Imao of Midsayap City was appointed Agusan del Norte governor.

Imao, who died in 2007, was also a Senate bet in 1995 and again in 2004.

Three years later, his son Jaquilino "Boko" Pimentel III ran for senator but lost. He however won as governor in 2004 and took his seat in the Senate in mid-2011.

Binay, incumbent party chair, predicted that the greatly diminished party would soon become a political force to reckon with, mainly because of his planned foray into the presidential derby in 2016.

"Often it felt that the party was composed only of bitter and cynical. But we had a lot of silent workers and the party owes a lot to them," the Vice President said in Filipino.

"We will give other political parties a good fight in the coming political activities," he assured the guests.

"PDP-Laban is now a leading party. If I say leading party, I think the party and myself are now equipped and given resources as players in the coming 2013 and 2016 (elections)," Binay said.

"We are no longer meek, we have our own: our laboratory complex. After all, we already have a vice president and a senator and we expect more victories to come," he said.

Senate to resume probe of poll fraud raps vs GMA

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE SENATE committee on electoral reform is set to resume its investigation and gather more evidence to line up the remedy filed electoral sabotage case against former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Sen. Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III yesterday said the inquiry was independent of the one completed by the joint panel of the Department of Justice and the Commission on Elections. He said the focus would be on "electoral reforms so that the shenanigans of the past would not be repeated."

"If we have persons new evidence on election fraud come out, it could be used in Arroyo" (case)," Pimentel told the Inquirer.

Arroyo, now a Pampanga representative, was arrested on arrest warrants on Friday night to her hospital room at St. Luke's Medical Center in Taguig City.

The previous committee hearing focused on the findings of Augustus Money, a former Hewlett-Packard consultant who admitted hitting election efforts in six areas in Mindanao to favor Arroyo in the 2004 presidential election.

Money said his handler was Michael Cruz, then-general manager of the Philippine Ports Authority and who is now empowered by receiving instructions from then Executive Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo. Both Cruz and Arroyo have vehemently denied the allegation.

Pimentel, an opponent victim of fraud during the 2007 senatorial elections, noted that the information filed against Arroyo before the Pasay Regional Trial Court could still be amended before her arraignment.

Malacañang somewhat stumped off complaints that the administration had railroaded the filing of the electoral sabotage case against Arroyo to counter the Supreme Court's temporary restraining order, which allowed her to seek medical treatment abroad.

Pimentel defended the Aquino administration against allegations of railroading the case, saying it had "passed through experienced prosecutory (for a few months."

"No, it's not hasty. It's hasty only to those who failed to leave the country," he said. "I think the government has an airtight case against the former president."

Pimentel was convinced that the DOJ and Comelec panel members in filing the case before the Pasay RTC and not in Quezon City, where public officials were charged before the antigraft court only if they "committed a crime in the performance of their job or in relation to their duty."

"Electoral sabotage, obviously, is not part of the duties of a public official," he said.

Political Affairs Undersecretary Francis Ibañez cited Section 268 of the Omnibus Election Code, saying it "specifically vests RTCs with jurisdiction over election offenses, including electoral sabotage."

"If (Arroyo's) complexion or a trial by this Sandiganbayan, that will come in due time, once the Office of the Ombudsman completes its investigation of at least six plunder complaints against her and finds probable cause to charge her before the antigraft court," he said in a press release.

Maintaining she deserved prayers that Pasay RTC Judge Jessie Mupas, who was assigned to Arroyo's case, was "more sanctioned by the Supreme Court for delaying cases under his disposal.

"We can always hope that he learned his lesson after that particular sanction," said deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte in her weekly program over Radyo ng Bayan.

CITY MAYORS HOLD CONVENTION

The League of Cities of the Philippines headed by Caloocan City Mayor Enrico Echiverri (left) and San Fernando (Pampanga) Mayor Oscar Rodriguez (right of center), chair and president, respectively, supervised their opening ceremonies at Budget Secretary Florencio Abad (center) for the support of the Philippine Cities Global Convention which was held recently at Resorts World Manila. The convention drew more 1,000 delegates, including city mayors from Japan, North America and Europe. Among others in photo are (counter-clockwise) Jose Roberto, Olongapo City Mayor James Gordon and Quezon City Mayor Herbert Bautista.

Baby John's plight touches Netizens

By Santiago R. Alcantara

NETIZENS have taken note of the plight of Baby John from Cagayan de Oro, who has reportedly been held "hostage" at a Laguna hospital for the past four months because his parents don't have the money to pay the bills.

Sympathetic readers are tweeting information and threads to help the baby and mother, who is reportedly not soon allowed to buy or breastfeed the baby by officials of the University of Perpetual Help Hospital. Dr. Jose Tamayo Medical Center.

The hospital near the parents can save P700,000 for the delivery and care of the premature baby.

One tweeter, who goes by the name TeresaC24, tweeted his celebrity friends to appeal for help. "I guess we're calling on da in anyway I can to seek help for this baby... family to pass. I hope my prayers will be answered. I'm so touched by this news but saddened that no money to give," he wrote.

He tweeted the likes of international singers Lea Salonga, Charice Pempengco and television personalities Cory Quirino.

Other reactions ranged from offering prayers to asking for a follow-up story.

"Please do a follow-up story on whether this baby 'hostage' or the nonsense 'inadmissible cases' in the Philippines will be able to go home for Christmas," one respondent said.

The Inquirer learned from the hospital's staff that the couple had been on different government hospitals in Manila and they were refused admission for some reason or other. Some facilities claimed they did not have incubators for premature babies.

"We accommodated them because we wanted to help them," the Evelyn Bautista-Pineda, Perpetual Help hospital director said.

Earlier, the baby's mother, Eleanor Isonga, complained that she has not been allowed to touch her 4-month-old baby.

She said she tried to talk to hospital staff, pleading that it was her right as a mother.

"It was not our intention really to put the hospital in a bad light. We're confused. We just want to ask for help," Isonga said in Filipino.

At the end of the morning, Bautista-Pineda reportedly told Isonga and her partner Edgar Inquisit that the hospital would not add anymore charges to their statement of account or the 10-hour they need to pay the bill—or at least get guarantors and donors...to bring the baby home.

As of Wednesday, the balance was down to P661,504.34, after the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office guaranteed a donation of P50,000.

Those who want to help bring Baby John home for Christmas can call Isonga at 09997721114. The said financial assistance can be deposited in her brother's bank account at Bank of the Philippine Islands (Dumaguete City branch), 8029-1400-43.

Photogs demand a clearer picture

A GROUP of photographers, photojournalists and photographs hobbyists want to dialogue with the Department of Tourism to check out the guidelines on shooting protests at Rizal Park and Intramuros in Manila.

The Tourist Mag Shoot Ditto Pilipinas (DMSD Pilipinas) expressed their apprehension to the DOT for unfolding to complains about guards of the National Parks Development Committee and the Intramuros Administration who were preventing people from taking pictures in the two public areas.

However, the group said the NPDC and IPA past statement that they didn't have a "no-shoot" policy in the two places has raised more questions than answers.

"Experiences on the ground say otherwise. And it had been going on for years. While we appreciate their response, this is not a simple issue that can be answered by a mere general statement. Alot needs to be laid down and discussed to put a period to this issue," DMSD Pilipinas convener Mel Cortez said.

Jerome Aning

PAL to use bigger jets to boost underground river tourism

By Tina G. Santos

NATIONAL Flag carrier Philippine Airlines has vowed to purchase the Puerto Princesa Underground River (PPUR)—now included in the pronounced list of winners in the recently concluded online global search for the new Seven Wonders of Nature—by using bigger jets to bring in more tourists.

This is apart from PAL's announced ambitions in the Philippines and abroad, said airline president and chief operating officer Jaime Bautista.

"In support of Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn's campaign on airport improvements, we will fly our bigger planes to Puerto Princesa," said Bautista in a statement, adding that PAL was crossing up with the city government to maximize the tourism potential of the PPUR.

He said PAL would deploy wide body jets like the Airbus a330 or Boeing to accommodate the expected influx of tourists to the city after its underground river won global recognition.

At present, PAL flies twice daily to Puerto Princesa using an Airbus a320.

Hagedorn said the interest of tourists, both foreign and local, in the underground river had been greatly aroused by its new found international fame.

Bautista said Palawan's underground river was included in the top six destinations in PAL's 2012 corporate calendar.

"This is how important PAL regards this wonderful destination," he said.

Timely renovation

According to Bautista, the recent renovation and expansion of the Puerto Princesa airport was timely as it could now accommodate bigger aircraft.

Aside from the Puerto Princesa airport, other provincial airports that can accommodate bigger aircraft are those of Cebu, Davao and Iloilo.

Earlier this month, the PPUR was named one of the new Seven Wonders of Nature, along with the Amazon rainforest, Vietnam's Halong Bay, Argentina's Iguazu Falls, South Korea's Jeju Island, Indonesia's Komodo and South Africa's Table Mountain.

Hagedorn, for his part, credited PAL with helping develop and boost Palawan's tourism industry. He said that bank where Palawan was considered a missionary zone. PAL was already flying to the island.

He noted that there used to be only two to three flights a day to Puerto Princesa. Now there are 11 flights a day, enhancing not only local residents but foreign tourists, as well.

Last year, around 421,000 tourists visited the underground river. The city government expects some 550,000 visitors this year.

Already a Unesco World Heritage Site, the underground river is located in Barangay Sabang, 81 kilometers north of the city.

Longest in Asia

Also known as the St. Paul or Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park, the underground river was 8.2 kilometers inside a limestone mountain. It is believed to be the longest underground river in Asia. While navigating the underground river, one can see formations of stalactites and stalagmites that had developed over 20 million years.

Known as the Philippines' last biodiversity frontier, Palawan also has white-sand beaches, lush forests, wildlife parks and other natural wonders.

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9 Superferry ships grounded after mishap

By Jerome Aning

NINE Superferry vessels owned by the Negros Navigation-Sulpicio Transport System Corp. (Sensaro-SENCO) have been ordered grounded after one of them collided with a fishing boat off Sarangani on Friday, the Philippine Coast Guard said yesterday.

PCG spokesperson Lt. Cmdr. Armand Balilo said a notice of suspension was issued yesterday by the Maritime Industry Authority (Marina) to Sensaro-SEC on the suspension of MV Superferry 20, MV Superferry 3, MV Superferry 2, MV Superferry 5, MV Superferry 12, MV Superferry 20, MV Cebu Ferry 1, MV Cebu Ferry 2 and MV Cebu Ferry 3.

Superferry 20 was involved in the collision with fishing boat San Jose Bayanihan in the vicinity of Barangay Tinoto, Maasim town, near the mouth of Sarangani Bay. The fishing boat was a total wreck and quickly sank. A number of the crew, Interaksyon Bantayog, 60, died after being hit on the head by floating debris.

The fishing boat's captain and other crew members were rescued by PCG personnel who were patrolling nearby.

Vessel inspection

All the grounded Superferry vessels will be subjected to a comprehensive and additional international safety management audit by a joint Marina and PCG team, Kindlewise said.

Aside from the PCG, Marina's law enforcement office and regional officers, the Philippine Ports Authority and Cebu Ports Authority were also deputized to conduct the audit.

The Seafarer's Identification Record Book and qualification documents of the officers and crew of Superferry 20 as well as the ship's safety certificates were also collected amid further issues, if, concerns arose.

Marina will begin its investigation of the collision on Nov. 25. The first hearing will be held at 10 a.m. at the agency's Pantalan office in Barangay 76 zone 8 in Pasay City, Metro Manila.

The Superferry 20, skippered by Capt. Candido Ramonibar, had 842 passengers at the time of the incident. It left General Santos City at 11:45 p.m. Thursday for a voyage to Manila with a brief stopover in Zamboanga City.

The fishing boat, which also came from General Santos City, was cruising southwestward to Balut Island in the Sarangani Islands when the collision took place at around 1 a.m. Friday. (The Sarangani Islands are not part of Sarangani province. The islands comprise a municipality, also called Sarangani, of Davao del Sur).

In August, two cargo ships collided off near the area. Two persons were reported missing.

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How to Write Effective Policies	Nov. 24	Effective Time Management	Dec. 01
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Coaching & Counseling Skills	Nov. 25	Effective Selling Techniques	Dec. 01
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P-Noy: It only just began

From page A1

The President urged his supporters to remain committed to his effort and "not to waver at our stand."

"We are all working for a new Philippines, one where there is equality, where whatever does wrong, whatever his status in life may be, is punished, a country where justice rules," he said.

Binay leads welcomers

The President's chartered plane arrived at 9:45 p.m. He was welcomed by Vice President Jejomar Binay, Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr., and other members of his Cabinet, including Justice Secretary Leila de Lima, who had barred Arroyo from leaving the country despite a temporary restraining order issued by the Supreme Court.

HIVE IT DIFFERENCE! Marlou Jayme of ZMR (2nd from left) receives the free trip to France award from Iloquian president and Ad Congress Chair Sandy Prieto-Romualdez (center) with Rosa Prieto Valdez, Paolo Prieto and Pepito Ofiaza at the Iloquian-sponsored booth at the 22nd Philippine Ad Congress at Camiller. Visit ugat.ph Congress with its theme "Changing the Game." BOY SANTIAGO

22nd Ad Congress ends in 'coopetition'

From page A1

"Coopetition" means that even though we compete within the industry we can cooperate for the common good of our consumers, like when we have down days," he said.

Ad Congress22 chair Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez said what was distinctive about this year's congress was that the organizers were able to come together to promote the local tourism industry.

Yabut said cooperating subsectors are congregating to the goal of pushing tourism in the country.

He said their experience in Camarines Sur has left a lasting legacy to the province and the Philippines as the benefits would accrue to many.

Romualdez noted the spirit of volunteerism among the ad congress members and the partnership with Camarines Sur Gov. Luis Raymund Villafuerte for making the event a success.

She cited the dedication of the team that put the event together and their faith to their capacity to create change.

"They did everything they could to make things happen," she said.

Casual and chic

According to Rabe, the AdBoard had made the bold move to hold the 22nd Ad Congress in the Camsur Watersports Complex (CWC) considering its reality into several structures had to be built to meet the "casual and chic" format of the biggest gathering of advertising industry players from Nov. 16 to 19.

In this sense, he said, the congress achieved its purpose of wanting to distance from past congresses, which were formal and somewhat inaccessible.

"The challenges that we faced in this particular congress only showed us that the members of the advertising industry put their faith in the leadership of this congress," Rabe said.

"When they say it takes a village to raise a child, I say it takes 12 villages to raise this baby called AdCongress22," Romualdez added.

Romualdez said there was a high level of participation from the host, the provincial government of Camarines Sur, and support from the Naga City government, which partnered to help the ad congress realize its goal.

"The realization that the success of the ad congress could start the next phase that the provincial government has planned (which is) to attract tourism through conventions," Romualdez said.

Villafuerte declared that "Camsur will continue to surpass expectations" and "will continue to stay on top of our game."

Many firsts

The governor said this year's ad congress boasted many firsts.

Where previous congresses were held in hotels or large, single structures like convention centers, Congress 8 was held in a complex with separate areas for the various activities that had been lined up—the plenary presentations; product exhibits and merchandising; social events such as lunches, cocktails and dinners; nightly entertainment; and lots of other hosts parties.

The country's newest advertising agencies, products and services were put up their own structures, each of them offering unique come-ons to the delegates.

Overall, the four-day event was a hearty boon for the participants, as they happily endured in the harbinger of nights and sounds and the smell of scrumptious delicacies.

Another historic first for the ad congress was that it was able to bring together the leaders of the country's three largest television networks—Gaudencio Lopez III of ABS-CBN, Felipe Gozon of GMA 7 and Manny Pangilinan of TV5.

"They were there not as rivals as competitors but as partners in pushing for the Philippine broadcast industry in particular, and the media and advertising industry in general to greater heights on the era of globalization," Villafuerte said.

He said his province's hosting of the event was "nothing like anything we've ever done before. Frankly, people were staying at the resorts so much and the energy level was really high."

Villafuerte said hosting the event has boosted the reputation of Camarines Sur as a world-class tourism and leisure destination.

He said they would open doors to pursue their vision of being the premier destination for meetings, incentives, conventions, conventions and exhibitions, or "MICE."

Embracing new media

Geoff Tan, who spoke on "Print Media: A Valuable Component in any Engagement Strategy Especially with a Multiplatform Approach," said there is a similar advertising event every year in his native Singapore.

As in the Philippines, the gathering of advertisers in Singapore aims at getting everyone in the same industry to come together as one body to listen to speakers who can help them move the business in a positive way.

Tan also cited thinking out of the box was the right way and pointed to the necessity of embracing new media. "The offline and online media must come together to form a total solution for the advertisers," he said.

Tan said "multiple touch points" and "multimedia, interacting and integrated" were today's buzz words in the industry.

He said organizations needed to come together and recognize the people's desire to be caught in a different way during the course of the day before a consumer's decision is made to buy.

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Invest in PH, Koreans urged

PHILIPPINE Economic Zone Authority (Peza) Director General Lilia de Lima has urged Korean businessmen to invest in the Philippines.

Dr. Lima extended the call during the Philippine Investments Seminar held in Seoul on Nov. 14 which was attended by some 80 Korean businessmen, the Department of Foreign Affairs said, citing a report from the Philippine Embassy in Seoul.

In her speech, De Lima disclosed that Peza registered total investments of P113.6 billion this year, a 60 percent increase vis-a-vis the same period last year.

"She urged Korean companies to consider the Philippines as an investment destination due to its favorable investment climate and dynamic political regime," the DFA said in a statement.

There are 269 Korean enterprises operating in various Peza zones, constituting 5.88 percent of all local and foreign investors.

During the seminar hosted by the Korean Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Samsung Electronics Philippines Manufacturing Corp. (Seplph) president Jun Hong Kim gave a testimonial.

He said Seplph had always believed in the Philippines as an investment destination, adding that Seplph was also proud of the country's Filipino engineers who developed a fully localized product for the international market.

In the course of her two-day visit, De Lima met with Minister Choi Joong-kyung of the Ministry of Knowledge Economy and visited the assembly plant of SBT Electro, Thai-S. Source

PMFTC Inc. (PMFTC) and the PMFTC Labor Union (PMFTCLU) signed its first collective bargaining agreement (CBA) after only six meetings. PMFTC President Chris Nelson and Union President Rodel Asiensa led the signing ceremony at the company's Marikina Plant, witnessed by Marikina City Mayor Del De Guzman, National Federation of Labor Union President Manny Arias, and members of the negotiating panels. Nelson said the successful CBA is a reflection of the mutual cooperation and trust between PMFTC management and its workers. PMFTC was the new company established in Feb. 25, 2010 following the business combination of Philip Morris Philippines Manufacturing Inc. and Fortune Tobacco Corp.

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PHOTO OF Said Aala leaders, including President Aquino (front 6th from left, back row) pose for the customary picture-taking during the East Asia Summit in Bali, Indonesia, on Saturday, which followed the leaders' summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean)

US, China face off in Bali on Spratlys, currency policy

BALI, Indonesia—The United States and China faced off yesterday over the thorny issue of how to resolve competing claims by Asian countries to sovereignty of the South China Sea, the latest point of friction between the two powers.

A meeting between US President Barack Obama and Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao mostly focused on economic issues, including China's currency policy, the White House said.

US lawmakers have long criticized China's currency policy, which they say keeps down the value of the yuan to boost exports, costing American jobs.

"It was a good engagement," Tom Donilon, Obama's top national security adviser, told reporters. Obama and Wen met on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit, a leaders' gathering of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) and their eight dialogue partners, including the United States and China.

'Outside forces'

Wen insisted on Friday that "outside forces" had no excuse to get involved in the complex South China Sea dispute, a clear warning to the United States and other countries to keep out of the sensitive issue.

Vietnam, the Philippines, Taiwan, Malaysia and Brunei all have claims to parts of the South China Sea, a major reason for some $5 trillion in trade sent annually through its waters, the most vital in the region.

Chinese claims large parts of the maritime region.

The Southeast Asian countries along with the US and Japan are promoting Beijing to try to work more ways forward on the thorny issue of sovereignty, which flared up again this year with offensive maritime manoeuvres that an Australian think tank said could lead to conflict.

China wants to hold bilateral talks with other countries that claim parts of the South China Sea as their territory, but the Southeast Asian claimants, the US and Japan are pushing for a multilateral approach.

"It ought to be resolved through friendly consultations between countries directly involved," Chinese Premier Wen said.

Obama said in Australia on Thursday, on his last stop before joining in the Asean summit in Bali, that the US military would expand its Asia-Pacific role, declaring America was "here to stay" as a Pacific power.

Days earlier, at least of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum in Hawaii, Obama had voiced growing frustration at China's trade practices and he pushed for a new Asia-Pacific trade deal without some of Beijing's outspokers.

The moves are seen as an attempt to reassert US leadership in the face of China's rising influence around the Pacific Rim and reassure allies such as South Korea and Japan that it would remain a strong economic weight.

Claims

Obama also announced on Friday that he would send US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton next month to Burma (Myanmar), which has drawn closer to China in response to Western sanctions, the first such trip to the isolated country in half a century. That will add to some fears in Beijing of encroachment in the Asia-Pacific as the US increases its footprint in the region.

China's claims cover the South China Sea in by far the largest, forming a U-shape covering most of the sea's 1.7 million square km, including the Spratlys and Paracel archipelagos.

The US has irked China by declaring a national interest in order to the South China Sea by entering the Freedom of navigation and trade.

Estimates of proven and undiscovered oil reserves in the South China Sea range from 28 billion barrels of oil to as high as 213 billion barrels. US figures showed in 2008. Gas deposits could be as high as 3.6 trillion cubic metres. Both could supply China with energy for decades.

The Philippines, which calls the South China Sea the West Philippine Sea, has called for greater unity among Asean nations with claims in their stand against China.

A strong position from the US in support of open talks could embolden such unity. Reuters

DINE DAY DIKE US President Barack Obama listens as Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao speaks during their one-on-one meeting on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) and East Asia summits in Bali after a week of sharp exchanges between the two nations.

P-Noy's Spratlys plan on hold until next year

By TJ Burgonio

BALI, Indonesia—Hoping gains nowhere with its proposal here, the Philippines is now looking to wait next's summit of the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) to push for its initiative to turn the disputed Spratly Islands in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea).

The Philippines yesterday made a last pitch for its proposal to turn the West Philippine Sea into a zone of peace, freedom, friendship and cooperation (ZoPFFC) at the East Asia Summit of 16 Asia-Pacific nations—but with little luck.

President Aquino joined 17 other leaders from the 10-nation Asean and its dialogue partners, including US President Barack Obama and China Premier Wen Jia Bao Jiabao, in the widened summit that was dominated by discussion about regional maritime security, before flying back to Manila last night.

"ZoPFFC was not brought up at all. We're the only one who brought up the ZoPFFC. All the interventions were on maritime security in the West Philippine Sea," Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario told reporters after the closing ceremonies.

Not proper forum

The Philippine initiative that entails negotiating disputed areas in the Spratlys from the undisputed ones to allow free use and joint development of the area received rejects in several bilateral engagements from other Asean members.

Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, the Asean chair and summit host, said he had taken note of the ZoPFFC, which the Philippines insisted was an "actionable framework" to resolve the dispute over the strategic and potentially oil- and gas-rich Spratlys involving some of the bloc's members.

The Philippines said it would seek a peaceful resolution of the claims with China and the other claimants—Malaysia, Vietnam, Brunei and Taiwan—for which it had obtained support from the United States.

China maintained that the summit was not the proper forum to tackle the issue, Del Rosario reported.

"They just said unanimously that it should be addressed in a peaceful way. They should be addressed in accordance with the code of conduct between China and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea), and that it should be done multilaterally. Some said it should be done multilaterally, including the claimants, and some added that it should be based on the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea," he said of the reactions from other leaders whose countries he could not recall.

Obama had expressed the same thing, he added, insisting the peaceful resolution of the dispute in accordance with international law such as Unclos.

China objects

Prior reiterated Chinese officials' earlier misgivings about internationalizing the issue at the East Asia Summit, the widened summit which also takes in Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand the United States, and this year's new members Russia. But he did not say which was the proper forum.

Del Rosario said Philippine was for the peaceful settlement of the Spratlys dispute, which has become a flash point for conflict and an irritant between China and the other claimant countries.

He said the summit was dominated by regional maritime security challenges, but also tackled interventions on disaster management, connectivity and food security.

"That remains to be seen," Del Rosario said when asked if Cambodia, which hosts the Asean summit next year, should be a concern for the Philippines because of its initiative is concerned.

In Manila last Friday Del Rosario had said the Philippines would also seek a peaceful resolution of the dispute with the United Nations. A message he said he relayed during a meeting with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon yesterday.

No consensus

"Complained to him that we're trying to do that to invite Unclos approached from international law, that we'd look at it multilaterally because there are many claimants, and finally, that we'd adhere to the DOC and work towards the DOC (Code of Conduct)," he said.

Del Rosario, who represented Mr. Aquino during the bilateral meeting with the UN chief, admitted that even during the "setting forum" in Manila, there was "consensus" on the ZoPFFC.

"We did not achieve a consensus because meeting with the setting forum, we did not have representatives from the 10 countries. So right then and there was no consensus," he said, referring to the Asean Ministerial Legal Experts' Meeting last September.

"But the results of the legal vetting of the framework showed that the ZoPFFC was not inconsistent with the Unclos, and it was relevant to the DOC," he said, quoting the maritime legal experts' opinion.

Third-party track

"We're hoping that the bill of... consists of ZoPFFC will be considered for the drafting of the DOC. The other process is that we're working exist from disputes settlements forum, which is Unclos," he added, referring to a parallel track of pursuing third party adjudication, arbitration or conciliation to the dispute that is brought in the settlement mechanism of Unclos.

The Philippines has maintained that the ZoPFFC was an actionable framework to define and segregate the disputed land features from the undisputed areas, and in the process, address the issue of China's 9-dash line.

9-dash line

(The 9-dash line refers to the demarcation line used by the Chinese government to stake its claims in the South China Sea, which appeared in a map that it submitted to the United Nations. The other claimants countries have protested China's 9-dash line map, as did Indonesia, the powerful country it does not have a claim on the Spratlys.)

The Philippines said that the ZoPFFC was consistent with the rules-based framework of managing the disputes in the West Philippine Sea and the DOC, the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, a landmarking agreement between China and Asean.

At the Asean-US meeting earlier yesterday, Asean and the United States stressed the need for an "environment of cooperation" in many areas, including counterterrorism, especially in three areas of uncertainty, according to Communications Secretary Ricky Carandang.

Poll sabotage raps sicken Abalos, rushed to hospital

From page A1

was "now resting at home."

Jimmy Isidro, the chief public information officer of the Makabayang government, said an illness that Abalos is had suffered a few years ago "came back" when he found out last Friday that he was going to be indicted with the nonbailable offense.

"He had experienced (organ) bleeding (before)," Isidro explained.

In 2003, Abalos Sr. who was then chair of the poll body, was rushed to a hospital after he passed out at his Comelec office in Intramuros, Manila.

Stress-related

The elder Abalos explained that he had landed from stress-related hypertension. At the time, the Comelec was making preparations for the 2004 national elections.

Isidro said he was not aware

whether Abalos Sr. was still in hospital, the same of which he informed had not provided.

"All I can say is that he is resting. He's trying to recover his strength," he said.

Mayor Abalos said Abalos Sr. had gone straight to the hospital following a visit to the Supreme Court on Friday. He said his father had undergone some tests, and "did not stay long."

"He has been through a lot (but) he will face the issues squarely," the mayor said.

Abalos Sr. personally appeared before the high court on Friday to seek relief against the impending raid from the Ombudsman, which said it was preparing to file 71 counts of electoral sabotage against the former Comelec chief.

Very urgent motion

He filed with the high court a very urgent motion for "the restraint of a temporary restraining order, saying he was "in grave and imminent jeopardy of being indicted and incarcerated without due process and equal protection of the law, even before his petition could be heard" by the high tribunal.

He made the appeal upon seeing the resolution from the special panel Deputy Special Prosecutor Jose Comelec panel that conducted the preliminary investigation of the case and recommended the filing of charges against Arroyo, Abalos Sr., former Bangsamoro Gov. Datul Ampatuan Sr. and former Election Supervisor Lintang Bedol.

On Friday, the Comelec filed the election sabotage case against Arroyo with the Pasay City Regional Trial Court which promptly ordered the arrest of the former President and now Pampanga congressman

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I am a CCA survivor
3 Questions for
Chef Tristan Encarnacion

Did you dream of being a celebrity chef before going to a culinary school?
No, not in my wildest dream! Though I soon realized that my time in CCA Manila inspired me to aim for bigger things in terms. The "real world" mainstays that I got from my mentors were immensely vital to my own personal growth in the culinary industry.

You really wanted to become a Chef, how did you tell this to your parents?
From the start, yes, they were skeptical. They thought that I wouldn't be able to finish the course and that I won't take it seriously. But eventually, they learned how much I enjoyed cooking in CCA. I have finally found my true calling. But more than, culinary school for life is no easy job, most of the time we were really 'under fire' because of long overnight hours in the kitchen. And there were days when life was like a pressure cooker because of countless deadlines. But I survived my CCA years through sheer determination because I truly love what I am doing, and because I had an unconditional and overflowing love and support of my parents.

How did you craft your signature dish?
In CCA Manila, we weren't only taught how to cook but we were also taught how to CREATE. We were exposed to different flavors, dishes with different textures, tastes and textures. Then I tried creating original dishes of my own, exploring various possibilities, until I uncovered my own signature dish. It's a great feeling, to create something special, something from my own palate! Which is why I am eternally grateful to CCA.

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Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

Mindanao kidnappings continue as gunmen seize another victim

COTABATO CITY—Kidnappings continue with impunity in North Cotabato with one more victim seized by gunmen, a relative of a mayor of one of the province's towns.

Authorities said the latest kidnapping happened yesterday when a student-led gunmen seized a town councilor in the son of Mayor Lorenzo Cabaya of Alamada, North Cotabato.

Not everything was bad news on the kidnapping front, however. On Friday, a kidnapping victim was released by his captors, according to police.

Chief Supt. Elpidio De Asis, Western Mindanao police chief, identified the released kidnap victim as Mustafa Capa, who was snatched in Pikit, Cotabato del Sur, on Oct. 18.

Errand boy

Dr. Asis said they suspected the release of Capa to the help given by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in the negotiations with the group's secular faction.

It was not clear whether ransom was paid to Capa's case or who the kidnappers were.

In the Alamada case, Mayor Cabaya said a certain Bonny Ti, who ran errands for the mayor, was returning from nearby Midsayap town on a motorcycle delivery by another man around 2 a.m.

The suspects stopped the motorcycle carrying Bonny "and declared a kidnapping," said Cabaya.

The driver of the motorcycle Bonny was riding rejected the kidnapping to the police, the mayor said.

Cabaya said it was the driver who told police the kidnappers thought they got his son.

"They were after my son Jaypee," he told the Inquirer.

Resurgence

Police and military authorities had launched a rescue operation for the victim, Cabaya added.

The abduction of Cabaya's relative was the latest case in the resurgence of kidnappings in Central Mindanao this year.

In September, authorities announced a girl scout troops after the nine seized in Pikit, North Cotabato.

In May, authorities claimed to have scored a victory against kidnapping when three suspected gang members were killed following the foiled snatching in Midsayap, North Cotabato, of luncheon store owner Faisal Hwang. Another gang member was arrested.

The battle against kidnappers in Mindanao has been going on for years now.

In the western side of the island, the Abu Sayyaf was responsible for kidnappings while in other parts of Mindanao, the Pentagon listed the rebel group.

Protected

The former police chief of Cotabato City—where majority of the kidnappings in Central Mindanao had occurred—said the motivations behind kidnap groups was different because influential persons in government, including politicians, were behind them.

Senior Supt. Wilfredo Dengpan said suspected kidnappers—including those arrested in General Santos City on Jan. 10—had admitted to authorities that they belonged to a syndicate being run or protected by government men.

"Allegations of involvement of these people are based on sworn affidavits of arrested suspects and other witnesses who are willing to testify in court," Dengpan said.

Dengpan said this was the same reason kidnappings persist in Central Mindanao. Erwin Fernandez and Jody Aliparo, Inquirer Mindanao

NEW START
After 20 years of negotiations and legal battles, the Maguio government finally convinced tenants of three shanty-run of-market stalls to voluntarily move out yesterday to pave the way for a new section of the city's public market. EDWARD DUNGCAS/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Samar recall: 40% of signatures checked

By Joey Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

CATBALOGAN CITY—The Commission on Elections (Comelec) is drawing closer to completing the verification of more than 70,000 signatures attached to a recall petition that seeks to oust the governor and vice governor of Samar and hold new elections in one of the country's poorest provinces.

Election officials in the province, however, are requesting for more time to complete the process, which is aimed at removing the sister-brother tandem of Gov. Sharee Ann Tan and Vice Gov. Stephen James Tan.

Lawyer Ma. Corazon Bilaclan, Samar provincial elections supervisor, said the verification of signatures attached to the petition was 40 percent complete but they needed more time to complete the process for all 75,250 signatures.

Bilaclan said the provincial election office originally had until Nov. 18 to finish the verification. The process, she said, has been delayed by both the Tan camp and their detractors.

The Tan siblings have been charged with incompetence and allowing their mother, former governor and now Rep. Milagros Tan, to rule the province instead. Milagros Tan had been suspended during her term for graft in connection with projects related to the use of the impoverished province's calamity funds.

Sharee Ann and Stephen James denied the allegations and said the recall proceedings against them were a form of political harassment.

As of Nov. 17, the local Comelec office had verified 41,751 persons or 39,822 of the 75,869 signatures attached to the recall petition.

At least 48,44 persons, or 29,625, signatures had been verified out of 72,250 signatures on the petition against the vice governor.

The Comelec had finished the verification process in four of the province's 24 towns and two cities—Tagapul-an, 628 signatures; Biri, 3,086; 1,413; Motiong, 1,662; and San Jose de Buan, 1,951.

Bilaclan said the schedule the Comelec en banc, through the office of Operations Director Bartolome Sino Cruz, for more time to finish the verification process.

She said that she didn't ask for a specific number of days in her request although it would be better if the Comelec was given 15 more working days to finish verifying all the signatures.

The Tan siblings earlier claimed that some signatures in the petitions were forged, and allegation denied by the petitioners.

The petitioners said people who utilized their signatures on the recall document were willing to execute affidavits attesting to the authenticity of their signatures.

NEWSBRIEFS

■ MAGUINDANAO, ILOCOS

Money lender slain

AN INCOME money lender was shot and killed by two gunmen on a motorcycle in this town last week, police said. Vicky Tabion, 38, of Datuapan City, had just collected payment from a client in Barangay San Manuel and was about to board his motorcycle when the gunmen attacked him at 12:30 p.m.

Senior Insp. Gabriel Labang, police chief here, said investigators are looking at business rivalry or personal grudge as a possible motive in the murder. He said the gunmen left without taking the victim's wallet containing P9,000 and his mobile phone.

Elmer Pauld, Inquirer Northern Luzon

■ CEBU CITY

US help sought

THE SUPERLIT of Customs in Cebu will consult with the US Department of Homeland Security to trace the real owner of a seized cargo that yielded assault rifle components and disrupted receivables worth P2.6 million.

Ronnie C. Silvestre, Cebu customs collector, on Friday said his office decided to seek the help of the US agency after they learned that the consignee of the seized shipment used a fictitious name.

Silvestre said he told Thursday the case with the representatives of Homeland Security who expressed concern over how the gun components and motorcycles were shipped from the United States. He declined to identify the official.

The consignee was identified as Renato D. Ramos of 10-13 J Royal Street, Barangay (village) Banilad, Cebu City. Authorities later found the identity and address to be fictitious. The car he had once been ordered seized.

Jose R. Dino Cruz, Inquirer Visayas

■ CITY OF CALAPAN

Nursing grad killed

A NURSING graduate reviewing for her licensure tests was found dead inside her room in Batangas Calapan. She city, authorities said.

Che Ivanne Dela Agustin Estacio, 21, who was preparing for the nursing board exams in December, was found dead at around 11 a.m. on Nov. 16. She was half-naked and blood-soaked when found. Police said she suffered brain and multiple stab wounds.

PO2 Rommel Dizon, Calapan police homicide investigator, quoted Dr. Basilica Liwits, city health officer, as saying no sign of rape was found on the victim.

Barco said Estacio lived with female cousins but she was alone at home when her body was found.

Mahmud Ali Ali, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Disease with no cure killing Mindanao's top export

By Kristine Alave, in Manila,
Dennis Santos
and Judy Quiroz
Inquirer Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—Mateo Lacson woke up one morning in October to find dozens of his banana plants wilted.

The 55-year-old farmer from Paradise City soon found he was not alone. Other farmers in Paradise City also oversaw growths for an export firm, found their plants wilted, too.

"The phenomenon was widespread, the farmers soon discovered. It happened not only in Davao del Norte but in Davao del Sur and Compostela Valley as well.

Experts said a soil-borne fungus called fusarium was killing the plants. They traced it to Panama disease, named after the Central American country where the plant disease wiped out entire banana plantations in the 1950s.

"It is an industry killer and for Mindanao, an economy killer," said Alex Velasco, head of the Philippine Banana Growers and Exporters Association (Philbex).

'It is an industry killer and, for Mindanao, an economy killer'

The disease isn't just deadly, according to Velasco. It doesn't manifest itself until the plants are dead. And no cure has been found for it.

"You cannot detect it until the plant leaves turn yellow," said Stephen Antig, Philex executive director. "The only cure is if you could develop a new variety of banana that is resistant to it," he said.

Killing the fungi is expensive, too, and could cost up to P300 per plant, said Antig.

When the fungi attacks a banana plant, it enters an entire hill there. It destroys the vascular system of the banana plants, blocking water and nutrients until the plant wilts and dies three or four months later.

Antig said the disease was first reported in Cabanas in Davao City three years ago and has since spread to Davao del Norte, Compostela Valley and Davao del Sur.

It spreads quickly, said Antig. Humans and animals could spread the disease when they step on infected soil and walk into healthy plantations. Tires of vehicles coming from infected plantations and entering healthy ones could spread it, too.

"So once it, one subdivision is to ease entire plantations where the disease was found, which would be unsafe.

The Panama disease doesn't stop at killing plants. It stays in the soil where it germinated for as long as 30 years and during which it would keep killing plants.

It was also reported in Bukidnon, another major source of bananas for export that generated for Mindanao an estimated $270 million in 2010 and put the Philippines on the map as the world's second biggest banana exporter.

In Bukidnon alone, at least 400,000 hectares are planted to bananas. "It is a very virulent disease and it is very fast killer," Velasco said.

The situation has prompted Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala to travel here Wednesday and meet with farmers in Bukidnon representatives.

"We cannot just ignore the problem because in a matter of time (panic) industry," Alcala said.

He said at least 640 ha of plantations in Compostela Valley alone are now infected.

While the government was willing to set aside funds to help, Alcala said an immediate solution could be to shut down infected plantations.

BANANA plants infected with Panama disease in Sto. Tomas, Davao del Norte

Related photo release.

Because farmers may have no place other crops to keep them from losing livelihood, he said.

INQUIRER Mindanao

E-mail us: [illegible]
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John Jun Bandayrel
Davao Chief Miss R. Alcantara

2 years after massacre, pain lingers

By Aquilino Z. Zonio
General Santos City

NANAY NANCY runs at the sorry state of her family since she lost her daughter, Gina dela Cruz, nearly a year ago in what has been viewed as the darkest moment in the history of Philippine journalism—the Maguindanao Massacre.

"Our situation has turned from bad to worse," the 64-year-old woman said when the bayanan visited her at her remodelable house in Barangay Labangal in General Santos City last week.

"We only had rice and noodles for lunch today. This morning, we just took a cup of coffee. Tonight, I and my little grandchildren would sleep with empty stomachs," she said.

For the past days, they have been eating just once a day, Nanay Nancy confided, saying financial assistance to the family after her daughter's death had run dry.

Their erstwhile breadwinner, Gina, a sales agent of the tabloid Gensan Focus, was among the 58 people, mostly media workers, who tagged along with the wife and other relatives of then Vice Mayor Esmael Mangudadatu in filing his certificate of candidacy in Shariff Aguak town on Nov. 23, 2009, in a bid challenge to the Ampatuan clan's hold on political power in Maguindanao.

Their bodies were found in the secluded, hilly village of Sultran in Ampatuan town, hours after armed men intercepted their convoy. Some of the bodies were buried along with their vehicles in pits prepared by a backhoe.

But there's more to the gruesome killings than the loss of 58 lives. Two years later and with Mangudadatu now the governor of the province, the magnitude of damage—psychological, emotional and financial—remains to be beyond reckoning.

THE MORALES children studying

AQUILINO ZONIO

"We only had rice and noodles for lunch today. This morning, we just took a cup of coffee. Tonight, I and my little grandchildren would sleep with empty stomachs..."

Gina's family

Gina left behind five children. The youngest, Queen Jhemina, is 2 years old.

Three—Jenjilyn, 11, now in Grade 6; Jenjanlie, 10, in Grade 5; and Ralph Jenan, 7, in preschool—are enrolled in a public elementary school in Labangal. Jenjilyn and daughter are both officials of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP), while Jenan is a recipient of ABS-CBN's Bayan Bata 163 scholarship program.

The eldest, Jengjes, 16, stopped going to school to work part-time for the family.

Another sales agent of Gensan Focus, Ronnell Morales, was among the massacre victims. His wife, Cristel, 35, said her current situation was a lot tougher than her previous experience as an undocumented worker in Kuwait for four years.

"My three children are closer to their kin there compared to me. I worked abroad for two years and he took good care of them during my absence," Grace said.

Inquirer scholars

Her children—Mia Alexandria, 12, I (Grade 6); Michelle Ivy, 11 (Grade 4); and Shantig 7 (Grade 2)—are recipients of a scholarship program sponsored by the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

"Each of them receives P600 allowance per month for two years now. I would like to thank the Inquirer for helping my kids continue with their studies," Grace said.

They are determined to finish schooling. Alexandria wants to be a lawyer. Michelle, a scientist, and Shantig, a teacher.

They were gathered in one table during their homework when the Inquirer arrived to their home in Barangay Apopong, also in General Santos.

Alexandria said she was terribly hurt by what happened to her father. "I hope and pray that justice will finally prevail. We will never have peace of mind unless justice is served to the victims," she said in the vernacular.

Grace said close through the help of the MLIE, the London-based Freedom Fund for Filipino Journalists pledged to extend assistance to the livelihood projects of the families of the massacre victims.

"Just this month, we underwent sort of capacity-building training to equip us with skills and knowledge how to handle a livelihood project. We can't rely forever on the benefactors. We must learn to stand on our own," Grace said.

Donations

Nanay Nancy said she had received financial help from various groups, including the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (P150,000), and from then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (P150,000). But she claimed that her other daughter, Ms. Vilia, bemoaned the money given by Arroyo but has refused to pay it back.

"The resource could have been a big help for us. But, to avoid family squabble just because of money, I stopped demanding payment from her," Nanay Nancy said.

Each month, her three grandchildren receive a total of close P1,000 in allowances from the NUJP and Bantay Bata 163. The remittances are for transportation expenses and for any school project.

"Oftentimes, I have to use their allowance to buy rice and noodles or bathsoap so we would have something to eat. Anyway the school is just a walking distance from our house," Nanay Nancy said.

Since Gina's death, she lamented, "we rarely had a decent meal. Usually, our meal is composed of rice with soy sauce, cooking oil, noodle or bathsoap as viand."

She had put up a sari-sari (variety) store but the donations she received. This, however, could hardly sustain their daily needs.

"We need a steady source of income," she said.

When asked how the children were doing in their studies, she replied: "They barely passed in their subjects. Most of their grades are in line of seven and eight. Nobody is assisting and helping them do the assignments since the time their mother was killed."

But Nanay Nancy believes that her grandchildren are somehow getting used to such situation. "They have learned to reconcile and live with the misery. Nobody feels among their complains."

PICTURES of some of the 58 people, 32 of them journalists, who were killed in the Maguindanao Massacre, are displayed on a road leading to the site of the country's worst political killing.

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OPINION

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Letter grade

EDITORIAL

THE SOUND you hear is a thousand pages turning. Amid the rise of airport dramas and the possibility of a constitutional crisis, the month of November has also been declared National Reading Month by the Department of Education, and it may be argued that among the three topics, it is the importance of reading that trumps the other two.

Filipinos have traditionally esteemed a good education as part of the great Filipino dream. Part and parcel of that is the gift of reading and writing. Literacy has always been a valued capacity dating back to pre-Hispanic times, when the writing system known as baybayin was in existence. Under the Spanish, knowing one's letters was both a mark of prestige as well as a method of subjugation, as the colonizers decided who would learn to read and who would not. The arrival of the Americans turned reading and writing English into a requisite part of daily life.

Today, functional literacy—the ability to read, write, compute and comprehend—is considered a regular requirement of citizenship in a country where public education is free up to the secondary level. But even those who fail to graduate high school are expected to be literate—because everyone is expected to be literate.

The current buzz is that our 2008 Functional Literacy, Education and Mass Media Survey, also known as FLEMMS, found that approximately 87 million Filipinos between the ages of 20 and 64 were functionally literate, a stunning functional literacy rate of 86.4 percent, up from the already impressive 84.1 percent recorded by the 2003 FLEMMS.

So most Filipinos can indeed read, but that does not mean they enjoy reading. While most students would be trained to a regimen of required reading, many Filipinos effectively stop reading for themselves after they graduate either high school or college.

It is for this reason that the DepEd came up with National Reading Month as well as its Every Child A Reader initiative, an ambitious nationwide synchronized reading program anchored by the schools. "DepEd is initiating programs that would promote reading and literacy among the pupils and students, motivate our youth to learn from the lives and works of eminent Filipinos, uphold one's own heritage and values and make reading a shared physical experience," Education Secretary Armin Luistro said in a memorandum. The DepEd was tasked to formulate more innovative programs to encourage students to read, among them a synchronized reading program. Malacañang has come out in wholehearted support of this initiative. In a statement, deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte said, "We strongly encourage parents, grandparents and guardians to read stories to their children to rekindle their interest in reading."

One common concern propelling National Reading Month and its ancillary events is that Filipinos were flocking to the internet in number numbers and eschewing traditional dead-tree books as a source of information and education.

The interesting thing is that participating on the Internet actually requires a good amount of functional literacy. English is the chosen language on the Net and to prosper about, to thrive and live a digital life requires the ability to read and, if not write then at least type, in English. You still have to know what you're texting and what you're typing. That makes reading and writing a concern for both the public and the private sector. Luistro said as in his memo: "Schools are recommended to partner with nongovernment organizations and the private sector to foster cooperation within the community and optimize the success of these activities."

One such private endeavor is the Philippine Daily Inquirer's own Read-Along program. Started in 2007, the program aims to connect dedicated storytellers with schoolchildren from all over the country, making stops at over 18 cities and provincial areas in between. Along with government efforts, it is such private initiatives which may make the difference in ensuring a continuous rise in the functional literacy rate in well as a growing love for books, whether old-fashioned or digital.

This is the best excuse to start reading that book you said you'd always finish as well as read to our children. National Reading Month reminds us that these arrangements of letters and symbols can ensure that the Filipino keeps reading all the way into the future.

That sound you hear? It is the sound of countless Filipinos scrolling and typing. It is the sound of a nation turning a page—and moving forward.

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Rule of law and public esteem

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

THE MOMENT the other day of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on charges of electoral sabotage has been hailed by those who seek to make her accountable for her past misdeeds as the triumph of the rule of law. Her family, lawyers, and allies, on the other hand, have called for acts of mastery of the law, drawing attention to the unusual haste in which the investigation was conducted, the charges were filed, and the arrest warrant issued. Though they are differently, both partisan lines get mixed from a legal standpoint. People think this is as it should be under the rule of law.

But, "rule of law" is a misnomer. The more accurate phrase would be "rule according to law." For, law itself does not rule. Political power belongs in the political regime. Law is there to regulate and check the use of this power—to make sure it is not abused. The effective exercise of this function, however, rests on the law's ability to demonstrate its autonomy from politics, money, religion, family and other centers of power. Otherwise, the legal system dwindles in legitimacy, which is the sole basis of the respect it commands.

Obviously, if political power can be abused, so can the interpretation of the law. In a democracy, the ultimate check on political abuse is the people's power of withholding consent at the polls. But what is the check on the issuance of arbitrary orders by magistrates of the highest court? The answer is also its paradoxical, apolitical solution.

The reality, however, is that in a countries' moral democracy, a nation seldom gets to the point of impeaching its justices. So desperate is the need to maintain the fiction of an impartial legal order, especially in young democracies, that a society will restrict vast political ire to the incompetence and lack of integrity in its judicial system than risk unsettling the system's credibility. That is how the rule of law comes to be equated with the rule of justices. When justices are corrupt and ignorant, the situation all too often translates into the rule of money and power. Or, as when the justices are beholden to the appointing authority, into the rule of whim.

It is this dysfunctional state of affairs that the Aquino government boldly challenged when it ignored the temporary restraining order issued by the Supreme Court allowing Ilocos to leave the country despite the criminal cases hanging her. The reasons offered by the Department of Justice were resolved in legal terms: they wanted to use the actual restraint order itself rather than rely on media announcements by the court administration (save, the government said) it wanted to see a document showing that the conditions for the TRO had been fully complied with. But it is clear to any observer that the government was delaying the high court. This is unthinkable in societies where justices are held in higher esteem than politicians. We in a society that had seen how the ill system had deftly manipulated the legal system, it seemed like only sensible thing to do.

Some are that in doing so, the Aquino government risked plunging the country into a constitutional crisis. That may be so; I don't know if there is a punishment for it that is worse than losing the presidency itself by an extra-constitutional route. I am sure Noy is aware of this. But it is important to note that this is still the price we are paying for having allowed unscrupulous politicians like the former president to pack the judiciary and the bureaucracy with unworthy individuals who owe us in her bidding in exchange for their appointments. All this is rooted in the reckless way we set aside the Constitution in 2009 to amend a duly elected president who had violated public trust. Having installed her, the nation became hostage to Arroyo's unceasing quest for political survival.

It is interesting that today Arroyo's defenders loudly accuse the Aquino government of a gross lack of civility, decency and compassion in the latter's handling of the case against the ailing former president. They were silent when the same moral values were being freely flouted during her presidency.

The public will not forget how GMA insisted on exercising the prerogative to name the new chief justice of the Supreme Court in the last weeks of her presidency, when, out of civility or courtesy, she should have left this choice to her successor who had already been elected. They will remember how she named the palace gatekeeper and her personal stenotypist to government boards just before she stepped down from office in mid-June through the then speakership. Even office in mid-June through the then speakership. Even office in mid-June through the then speakership. Even

Rights of illegitimate children

THE SHOCKING murder of Sumpaen Banzuela, allegedly masterminded by his brother RJ and carried out by hitmen, has unfolded conflicts and rivalries among the many children of former Sen. Ramon Revilla Jr. (Sen Arsenio Banzuela to real life).

One of surnames, in an interview, the former mistress (and admitted sister) Grenalyn Mapagmay said she was about 16 or 17 when she became pregnant with Ramon's child. The man publicly known of these women is Gondon Magsaysay, himself a daughter born out of wedlock of another former senator, Senator Magsaysay. The police theorize that the alleged unequal distribution of the full allowances given by the killing mastermind was the motive for the murder. But newspaper reports emanate from the self-pleader of Ramon's several money sits among the siblings.

To begin with, I think there are really no illegitimate children. There are only illegitimate births and mothers, who forget offspring outside a valid marriage. I say this because it is right unfair to punish children who had really no hand in their conception and birth. However, our laws, principally the Civil Code and the Family Code—label children conceived and born out of wedlock as "illegitimate." So, to avoid confusion, I will continue using their rights, self-doubt by such nomenclature.

The Civil Code and the family Code, which both regulate "filial relationships" (that is, the rights and obligations of parents and children), provide that illegitimate children "shall use the surname ... of their mother." But Revilla Jr. himself authored a law in 1994 (Republic Act 7655, otherwise known as the "Revilla Law") that amended these two codes and allowed illegitimate children to use the surname of their father, "if their filiation has been expressly recognized by the father through the record of birth appearing in the civil register, or when an admission to a public document or private handwritten instrument is made by the father."

Simply stated, such express (not implied) recognition may be found in the original birth certificate signed by the father, or in a notarized document, or private written instrument executed by the father. Absent such express acknowledgment, an illegitimate child can use only the surname of the mother.

Format and support. Obviously, the children of Grenalyn have been expressly recognized since they freely use both the real-life surname "Sumpaen," and the real-moniker "Revilla" of their father. Once properly signed, the express recognition grants to illegitimate issue not only surname rights but also monetary benefits, like support and succession rights, apparently from the father.

There have been varying media reports on the amount of support given by Revilla Jr. to Sonia Lyn's children—from P1 million to P150,000 a month—which was apparently apportioned by the deceased Ramapo among his siblings. Support, according to the Family Code, "comprises everything indispensable for sustenance, dwelling, clothing, medical assistance, education and transportation, in keeping with the financial capacity of the family." "Education" can extend beyond the age of majority.

The amount of support "shall be in proportion to the resources or means of the giver and to the necessities of the recipient." It may vary proportionately from time to time according to the reduction or increase of the financial capability of the obligor and the needs of the obligee.

It is clear that illegitimate children are obliged to give support. "Brothers and sisters not legitimately related, whether of the full or half blood, are likewise bound to support each other," but support may be denied to illegitimate siblings "if the need is due to a cause imputable to the claimant's fault or negligence." Under the Family Code, the many Revilla children, whether legitimate or not, may owe support to each other.

Succession or inheritance. By succession, the property, rights and obligations (to the extent of the value of the inheritance) of a person are transmitted to the heirs (and others called devisees or legatees) upon his or her death, either by a will or by operation of law, or partly by will and partly by operation of law.

Decedents may dispose by means of a will only such portions of their property that are not reserved by law for the compulsory heirs. In other words, a testator cannot, as a rule, disinherit compulsory heirs. Once duly acknowledged, illegitimate children are entitled to inherit from their father. They are entitled to what the law refers to as "legitime," which is that part of the testator's estate that cannot be freely given away because the law reserves it for the compulsory heirs. While recognized illegitimate children are compulsory heirs, their legitime, according to the Revilla Law, is equivalent only to one-half of the legitime of legitimate children.

Legally "adopted" and "legitimated" children are treated better than illegitimate children because the former enjoy the same rights as legitimate ones. Children conceived and born of parents who at the time of the conception of the former were not disqualified by any impediment to marry each other—may be legitimated by the subsequent valid marriage of their parents. For example, if Grenalyn's children were conceived and born when Ramon Revilla Sr. was not legally married to anyone and not otherwise disqualified to marry Grenalyn (who was single), they could become legitimated children if Ramon Sr. and Grenalyn would marry each other. But if Revilla Sr. had an existing marriage at the time of their conception, Grenalyn's children cannot be legitimated.

* * *

Comments to abalbin@sanguniellan@hotmail.com

WITH DUE RESPECT

Antonio U. Pangalangan

We are cultic up to Santa

TO BEGIN with, Catholicism is cultic. I use "cult" in its purest sense: worship, devotion, veneration; expressed in rites and rituals, devotions, icons, holy objects. Catholicism, described as "sensuous," easily lends itself to cult. It's said to be a "full-bodied experience" where the sensuous of God comes through the five senses: music, incense and candles, bread, scapulars and medals, icons, consecrated humanity, magnificent art.

Even more so in the Filipino version, akin to mestizaches, and to love with spectacle and ornamentation, bursting to full color and sound in our fiesta. When it comes to cult, Filipino religiosity spilleth over.

COMMENTARY

Asuncion David Marcoshe

But "cult" is an essential component of religion; it's not in question. What makes cult "questionable" is its excess and extravagance—too many, too much, like a freak, an obsession, the answer to all our problems. We are not known for restraint; we pile them all on: our bodies' tables, the walls in our homes, our cars' dashboards.

And so every devotee has her clutch of dog-eared prayers, devotions and novenas for every ailment, favorite saints or special occasions. And every other Filipino home, from Batanes to Tawi-Tawi, has its altar, big or small, with statues and images, rosaries and medals, or which we pay our homage; for ours is an aching religion. As far as we are concerned, our icons are not mere symbols or representations but possessed of some imminent power to heal our sick; or to grant a job or the jackpot; and so we touch or rub "their feet, their face, the pedestal if we can't reach the face."

As the apes, what can beat the lunatic frenzy that is Quiapo on the feast of the Nazareno? Enough said.

But cultic is not to usury to religion than just the "sensuous." There are the feasts, the "sentiment part" of our being, the transcendence of it all.

The feasts is a few questions which both are the faithful who tend to be cultic, and the still cultic-primarily pedants and priests who cultivate it, must try to answer.

Icons and holy objects are good. The Bible and Church teachings are clear. We do not worship these, we only venerate. Yet, why are we accused of idol worship? Is it because it seems that "we don't "They shall plead for your needs," advertised a once-selling mercury.

Devotions are good. They constitute much of the Filipino's prayer life. But many a theologian and theologian wonder whether the person possesses the devotees' lives or whether it is a comfort zone or a compartment for selected purposes and times.

Good too is the veneration of saints, the great exemplars, around whom devotions can be mirrored in fervent heights. But to an honest eye, saint-making can be political. Like a comet, John Paul II streaked past. John Paul I (cause of "sainthearing" and howling) who was shedding the trappings of high office (remember cars) and John XXIII (Vatican II, remember?), both long "delayed" but now "forgotten" in the back burner with the power elf.

There has been a call for lay saints because in Paradise we may find "mothers, workers, professionals, students no higher than the official saints we venerate on earth." (Right now I can name two friends who are living saints but still have to make it to the official pantheon.) But working against lay saints is "the Church's requirement that a board devotion spring up" around them? What do we have here, a popularity contest?

Rituals, simple or grand, are good or a mixed bag. They can bring in the numbers. The Nazarene brings in millions (of people and money. I am told), in a manner by the way, that the Church laments year after year. Yet, why another Eucharistic Congress, or the equivalent of the apostolic journey around them? What do we have here, a popularity contest?

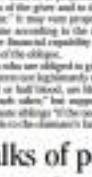
Rituals, simple or grand, are good or a mixed bag. They can bring in the numbers. The Nazarene brings in millions (of people and money. I am told), in a manner by the way, that the Church laments year after year. Yet, why another Eucharistic Congress, or the equivalent of the apostolic journey around them? What do we have here, a popularity contest?

Our symbols and expressions of worship are on profane, they sweep all meaning and become ends in themselves. This is hardly the stuff religion and spirituality are made of—an observation running all scores of both youths and adults, perhaps still an expendable minority in the eyes of the Church, but to how long? The question nibbles.

But cultic is not everything, only in good. There remains room for "faith experience" and may be the bedrock of a people's deep faith. Witness a relative, "Tony ko si ehit-ong Hari Friday and prayers, de rain and y pulpit-ic libraries, Sirlan." Who is to question that?

Christmas is upon us. Spared from being dished like the Sto. Niño, Santa Claus, myth or not, is coming in all modesty (compare Santa's Workshop in Rovaniemi, Finland; a facility dangling on a rope, riding on an elephant. But the best Santa is to my tots...Regular images" Travelling Santas," says in hand, a smile playing on his lips, a twinkle in his eyes, here over, adoring the Babe in the manger. Here's the man of the hour adoring the real reason for the season!

Asuncion David Marcoshe is a retired professor, book editor and occasional journalist. Comments to marcoshe_ph @inquirer.com; fax 8284434



AT LARGE

Nina Jimenez-David

A survivor talks of peace

NORIS ESPIC Enrique Espiritu heard news of the killings of at least 19 soldiers in a village called Al-Sa'ida in Ramlan, she felt a chill run down her spine. There, in that same village with an MILF stronghold, she was kidnapped by men identified as Abu Sayyaf and brought to a remote hideout that was the group's stronghold. That was Al-Sa'ida, a place, said Espiz, that is "very close to my heart."

To all, Espiz was held for 463 days, while her friend was held for another 45 days.

Now, after three years of freedom, Espiz says the six-and-other women who have been kidnapped and released by the Abu Sayyaf and other "MNLF" or kidnap-for-ransom groups must no longer be victims but must be seen as "survivors" of the "wars" of the Abu Sayyaf fighters, who insisted at war there.

But the three years since her release, says Espiz, have taught her how important it is to speak out in unity about the conflicts that beset the country, and the road to peace that all Filipinos must walk down and follow.

"There is more than an agenda," said Espiz while addressing a Women's Solidarity for Peace" forum organized by the Balay Rehabilitation and held at the Asian Social Institute in the Ateneo campus. Espiz demands, she said, answers to the question: "What is your agenda for yourself in that you can be transformed?"

Women must build a critical mass with peace forward and utilize what she calls "the energy of peace."

But before that can happen, adds Espiz, "we need to give a story a face to the women's peace agenda."

The women friends in Al-Sa'ida, recalls Espiz, spoke of their frustrations with the men's preoccupation with conflict and arms bearing. "The men talk of nothing but war," the women complained, but pay little attention to the impact of war on children and their families.

"It is the women and children who plant cassava and other crops so everybody can eat," says Espiz. "But when the men start fighting, they have to evacuate and abandon their crops, which means they have nothing to eat."

* * *

If only all the ransom money that the kidnappers receive is used to buy food, said Espiz, "food would flood the area." But food and infrastructure are very low on the fighters' priority list, she said, when the money arrives "there is an immediate bidding for arms."

As a survivor, she says, "I don't want to see hatred. I don't want to spread sorrow because of my story."

But, she reminds us, "We cannot commit to peace in our comfort zones." Instead, she adds, one would "need to let go of your own perspectives, to other those of others."

"Build a relationship" even with those who are perceived as our "enemies," she "culture." It might help, she continues, if the basic field for efforts to handle groups, actors and perceptions are dismantled, initiated to conform to ideology or religion, and assumptions are to Moro Manila or even to the rest of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao must be granted are not all applicable or relevant.

* * *

ANOTHER speaker during the event, peace advocate Ging Deles, observed that despite the heated coverage of the Al-Barka and Zamboanga Sibugay incidents, "nothing in the peace process" in New's peace politics and the performances of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, "the debate has been a good opportunity to come to an understanding of what we as a people want when we call for "full end war," or pro-claim that we advocate a "just and lasting peace."

"Don't kill into stereotypes," Deles warned her audience. Not all women are for peace, she noted, and to find it was under a woman president that the latest escalation of conflict took place. And not all men want to make war, she added. The president must committed to peace, she said, was one, a former military man (Ramos) and another, her mentor Jose Diokno and Ramos.

Another stereotype that needs overlooking, she added, was that "it is the military that wants war, and civilians who want peace." On the contrary, she said, the military is tired, especially those on the ground, who most fervently wish for peace because it is they whose lives are on the line. Indeed, said Deles, "the most strident voices calling for war have been civilians, armchair generals."

* * *

THE "Solidarity for Peace" time called for either women taking part to share their thoughts and feelings.

Perlas Morales, speaking on behalf of indigenous peoples, said she felt "very jealous of women in other parts of the country" who have time and leisure to organize themselves with things like cooperatives, gender and development, and opportunities to be found in the Magna Carta of Women—time women in Mindanao, "have been very absent one day to day survival, and have no avenue to express conflict."

Becky Lozada, who has worked in the last decade for the ratification of the Rome Statute (ratified by the Philippines last June 11), expressed hope that women and peace activists would work together more closely to monitor the observance of the rules set by the agreement on International Humanitarian Law.

Noemi Bautista Lim, speaking on the situation of women affected by the war in Mindanao, spoke of the need to end the conflict so that women and children in the whole debate over peace and conflict. "We need to be more creative" to let these voices be heard, she observed.

As the afternoon winded down, the women present gathered in a circle, linked by nearest neighbors holding hands and, with love the peace, dancing and swaying to the sounds of a song, all calling for peace, in ourselves and with our neighbors, in this country and the whole world.

WORLD VIEW

Ibrahim Delhaney

'Our' Islamists

NEW DELHI—Following the death of Moammar Gadhafi, Libya's interim government announced the "liberation" of the country. It also declared that a system based on sharia (Islamic law), including polygamy, would replace the secular dictatorship that Gadhafi ran for 42 years. Bringing our basis of authoritarianism for another seven-a cruel lesbian after seven months of bias or orders to kill rivals, real or imagined.

In fact, the Western pressure that brought about regime change in Libya have made little effort to prevent its new rulers from establishing a theocracy but this is the price that the West willingly pays in exchange for the prize of Libya's oil. Nor is anybody bothered, indeed, the death of Islam helps to protect the credibility of leaders who might otherwise be seen as foreign puppets.

For the same reason, the West has condoned the silence of the old dictators for their longstanding alliance with medieval clerics. For example, the decent House of Saud, backed by the United States, not only practices Wahhabi Islam, the source of modern Islamic fundamentalism, but also exports this fringe form of the faith, gradually stuffing out more liberal Islamic traditions. Yet, when the Saudi Grand Mufti declared recently that United States should be allowed to ally the ruling family appointed in most reactionary tolerant at the new feel to the throne.

In late-date have the Arab monarchies become so ill-tolerant that the American-base failed to stop them from cracking down on Shiites in Bahrain and Muslim extremist groups and traditions in other countries. From Africa to South and Southeast Asia, their petrodollars have played a key role in funneling militant Islamic ideology and financing to the West, Israel and India are its enemies. The US interest has not always played out in its oil-rich countries-camps all other considerations.

With Western support, the oil monarchies, even the most tyrannical, have been able to ride out the Arab Spring, emerging virtually unscathed. For the United States, the dictatorship that make up the Gulf Cooperation Council—Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman—are critical for geostrategic reasons as well. After withdrawing its forces from Iraq, the United States is considering using Kuwait as a new military hub to expand its military presence in the Persian Gulf region and foster a US-led "security architecture," under which its air and naval assets would be regionally integrated.

Iran-led regime change in Libya, which holds the world's largest reserves of the light sweet crude oil that American and European refineries prefer, was not really about selecting in favor of blood democracy. The new Libya faces uncertain times. The only serious challenge to the new rulers will remain before to those who helped to install them. US for, John McCain has already announced that the new Libyan rulers are "willing to embrace us and one of us" for the sum of offering more change.

America's record in installing the rulers of states and groups were remanded in the 1980s, when the Reagan administration used Islam as an ideological tool to spur armed resistance to the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. In 1983, at a White House ceremony attended by several Afghan mujahideen, the president said of which the Taliban and al-Qaeda evolved, Reagan greeted reserved his guests and declared, "These gentlemen are the moral equivalent of America's founding fathers."

Yet the lessons of the anti-Soviet struggle in Afghanistan have already been forgotten, including the need to focus on long-term goals rather than short-term victories. The Obama administration's current effort to strike a bitterness bargain with the Taliban, for example, ignores America's own experience of the consequences of following the path of expediency.

Besides Islamic fund has been ignored is the need for caution in training Islamic insurgents and founding lethal arms to them to help over. throw a regime. In Libya, bringing the myriad rebel militias under government control is likely to prove difficult, particularly in creating a pluralist structure that respects dissenters.

Exponents of US policy argue that in war it is sometimes necessary to choose the lesser of two evils. However often—ranging from Islamist militias to regimes that foolhardy militant Islamic fundamentalism—may be an unavoidable price to be paid in the service of larger interests.

Paradoxically, the US practice of propping up malleable Islamist rulers in the Middle East often results in strong anti-US sentiment, as well as support for more independent and "nationalist" Islamist forces. When elections are held, it is such autonomous Islamists who often emerge as winners, as in Tunisia and Tunisia.

The light against Islamist terrorism can succeed only by ensuring that states do not strengthen the hands of the very forces they claim to fight. Otherwise, the US will be fighting against the first critical violence as a religious tool. Unfortunately, with the US willfully ignoring the lessons of the recent past, the extremists are once again waiting in the wings.

Prithvi Gyanchand

Ibrahim Delhaney, professor of Strategic Studies at the New Delhi-based Center for Policy Research, is the author of "Asian Juggernaut" and the newly released "Middle East's New Battleground."

THEY SAID

A good pastor

"He was a good priest, a devout believer who for many years served the people of the Philippines in a courageous and indefatigable way."

—Pope Benedict XVI, expressing condolences for the killing of Fr. Shaun Devereux, in a message to Giuseppe Pinto, the Vatican's apostolic nuncio in Manila

Real liberation

"A new Libya is born today. This is the day of real liberation. We were never silent about getting him a fair trial. It seems God has some other wish."

—Transitional National Council chief spokesperson Mahmoud Shammam, confirming that former Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi was killed

Dear dad

"We had a really great relationship before all the trouble started. I loved him and I still will love him. He's still my dad after all."

—Chastise Dreyfus, on her relationship with ex-tycoon father Reinier Dreyfus who was recently confirmed to have cut off all future support for his daughter, Inquirer

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TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to: jamesjoaquin@inquirer.com.ph

Jaime Joaquin V. Sarmiento Jr.

MAGUINDANAO MASSACRE (YEAR 2)

Impunity in the Philippines

[Press freedom watch and media advocacy groups worldwide have designated Nov. 23 International Day to End Impunity, it is to accelerate that the date is the second anniversary of the 2009 Ampatuan town massacre.

The massacre, in which 32 journalists and media workers were killed, was the worst of its kind in the world. Brutal attacks on media people in the Philippines have been happening since 1986. Journalists are harassed, threatened and killed, in many cases without punishment for perpetrators. Amid amnesia or masterminds—a phenomenon known as impunity. In countries like the Philippines, impunity has become an established way of doing things.]

By Melinda Quintos de Jesus

THE PHILIPPINES modeled its press system after the American constitutional provision for freedom of expression and press freedom, using the same words one finds in the US Charter: "No law shall be passed abridging the freedom of speech, of expression, or of the press..."

Filipino horse also chooses not to pass a press law to define the limits of freedom in press practice, although laws have indirect bearing on the exercise of media functions, such as the Anti-Libel against Women and Children Law, the Anti-Money Laundering Law and the Human Security Act (against terrorism). But by and large, the courts have observed a libertarian orientation.

The press style is robust and adversarial. Journalists exercise power and influence in society. In the field of broadcast, media personalities gain a measure of fame and celebrity that catapults them into the field of politics.

Contradictions

But the situation in the country reflects fundamental contradictions. Libel in the Philippines is still prosecuted as a criminal offense. Politically motivated libel charges are a common instrument of response to journalist critics.

There are few lawyers available for media defense around the country. Journalists working in the rural areas or in cities outside of Metro Manila are increasingly vulnerable to political harassment and violent attacks. The record of the killing of journalists stinks (the country) among the "most dangerous assignments" according to the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ).

Many cases do not get to court and killers go unpunished, not to mention those who ordered the killings. CPJ ranks the Philippines as third in its Global Index of Impunity this year.

Culture of impunity

The word impunity refers to the failure of the state to punish **criminal** or unlawful conduct. The consistent failure underlies the state of lawlessness in Philippine society. The experience of crime, including violent attacks, from day to day...its perpetration corrupting every system and contaminating even the most routine transactions in daily life.

The documentation of the killing of journalists in the Philippines has established a framework for understanding the larger context of impunity.

Poor awareness

Poor awareness, impunity involves and reflects the poor awareness of many Filipinos about the law and their own rights, five questions the de facto immunity enjoyed by the Media and Television Review and Classification Board.

The country's Constitution grants the protection of press freedom from government interference. But awards about the radio stations can be closed down in remote towns and cities because those are programs that are critical of local officials.

On another level, the killing of journalists serves to effectively silence the critical voices and dissenting opinion in a community. The Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility's (CMFR) database shows cases implicating public officials and public figures in these killings. These attacks occur most rarely in the capital region, where people, public opinion would ensure effective police action.

In this time, only four cases are on record in Metro Manila, one related to coverage of drugs and another involved a land feud that had also been the subject of the victim's commentary.

Since 1986, there have only been 58 cases which have led to the conviction of hired killers and masterminds. The rest, who ordered the killing, are often exempted. In a singular case, here kept in the province of Iloilo, Governor Ilaguer's killers identified the masterminds, but despite an arrest warrant issued three years ago, the suspect masterminds are still roaming free.

The following conditions exist for the culture of impunity:

- Weak rule of law, which places powerful persons above the law along with political warlords who rule agencies of law enforcement.
- Poor police capability for forensic investigation leading to evidence on witnesses.
- Poorly funded Witness Protection Program.
- Judicial system weighed down by rules and regulations that are vulnerable to legal manipulation.
- Culture of violence and guns.

The weaknesses of the criminal justice system as a whole leave to crush crime unsolved and unpunished. Against this background, all ordinary citizens are vulnerable to violent attacks and threats. It is not only journalists who are killed. Lawyers, NGO workers, activists, and judges have been killed in such numbers as to have attracted the attention of the United Nations. Philip Alston, a UN special rapporteur, an extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, identified the police and military **general** as **groups** where these killings occurred. Extrajudicial killings may have been checked but these have not stopped.

The killing of journalists poses an **ironic** challenge to Philippine society. Newspapers and broadcast news programs hold a special place in national life, with a central role in public discourse.

Media landscape

Why are so many journalists killed? To add to the above factors, one must consider the peculiarities of the Philippine media and press. The media community is a vocal and visible community. There are, according to the Philippine Media Factbook 2009, 388 newspapers (9 national broadsheets, 19 tabloids and 322 community or province-based); 631 broadcasting stations (250 AM; 401 FM); and 12 Manila-based TV networks and 71 provincial based TV networks.

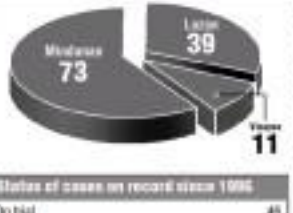
All in all, there are thousands who work in the media and press, some as journalists working within a system of editorial review and others as media practitioners who come to the practice with little training or preparation.

The media circle is bold, the use of language daring, such as the personalities adopting a popular line-wheeling radio dial-chat that is in many cases. Popular radio programs have a boisterous style that arouses an audience, but this style has been used as provocative of attacks.

The CMFR database shows over 123 journalists killed in the line of duty since 1986

A BODY is recovered from a shallow grave in Dalo Ampatuan, Maguindanao, where at least 30 bodies were found.

Philippine journalists/media workers killed in the line of duty by island group



Status of cases on record since 1986

On trial	46
Archived	7
Conviction	13
Dismissal and acquittal	9

(http://www.cmfr-phil.org/journalistkilled/). From year to year, the numbers have been compared with journalists dying in circumstances connecting to a state of war.

Documentation

Documentation, getting the facts right, is a necessary first step. But CMFR findings of years have helped frame a shared understanding of the situation. It has accompanied the count with analysis of cases to discern patterns that may suggest strategic action.

No one was exempting the risks during martial law for obvious reasons. The exercise has by some quite systematic with the expansion of democratic space for investigation and inquiry. Ironically, however, the end of martial law brought to light the harsh reality of these attacks, leading some to think that the killings were due to a failure of democratic governments.

Fall of Marcos

CMFR first conducted an analysis of the reported cases of killings in 1991, five years after the fall of the Marcos dictatorship. CMFR recorded 31 killings from 1986, when people power in February toppled the Marcos regime, to August 1991. Twenty-two of the killings then were classified as deaths in the line of duty. The facts in six of the murders could not be determined and personal issues were involved in four. At the time of the report, no arrests in any of the cases had been brought to trial.

It was a period of heightened expectations. The new administration under then President Corazon Aquino dismantled the infrastructures of dictatorial controls, but the removal also unleashed competing political forces and demobilized the instruments of violence.

CMFR presented its database to the Philippine National Police sometime in the late '90s which then started up to computerize its records. Some years, other groups have taken up listing of killings for their various organizational purposes.

The Ateneo de Manila University's Department of Communication Research (Ateneo DCR) has been monitoring media killings since 2001. Its list of 154 cases from 2001 to 2012 is the most comprehensive. Its methodology is to cross-check with other lists, including those of the CMFR and the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP).

31 media workers killed

Thirty-two journalists and media workers were part of a convoy traveling with a politician's wife who was going to file her husband's certificate of candidacy. His wife was accompanied by other women relatives and friends. No one was spared, his other relatives who just happened to be passing by were also killed.

CMFR pointed out in its statements that the massacre could have been easily dismissed as politically motivated, linked to the vengeance cycles (rido) of rival clans in that part of the country. But the journalist victims formed many public witnesses to the case and turned the kind of public outrage that could not be ignored, forcing the administration of then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to take steps to pursue and successfully prosecute.

Advocacies help support media defense and have cultivated a useful search of the trial. Various members of the Freedom Fund for Filipino Journalists, Inc. (FFFJ) signed into to a measure of immunity to seek the facilitation of a defense lawyer, among the highest paid legal fees in the land, for breach of professional conduct. The success may not prosper but signatories felt it was necessary to protest and put on record the abuse of legal discretion to the defense of the suspect.

Reports here and abroad have noted attempts to silence witnesses, to force members of the family to withdraw their cases from court. There is no limit, it seems, to **the application of pressure** tactics to tilt the legal process in favor of the accused. Such tactics are seen in courtrooms all over the country, where the means, the wealth and the power of the accused can buy lawyers who are willing to push the envelope of unethical practice.

The legal manipulation of the court system calls for policy reviews and reform of rules that serve the purpose of lawyers, not the course of justice.

This last case may crack the walls of impunity. Depending on the outcome, the result may constitute a giant step for justice, sending out the message that no one can be so wealthy as to pervert so as to be above the law.

Or it could set back our struggle in the establishment of the rule of law.

Leadership

The discussion must include the role of government. No matter how steadily NGO workers press their efforts, in the final analysis, it is government agencies that have the power to act and dismantle the instruments of impunity.

While GMPA and JTFG have found dedicated and committed government officials as allies in their cause, these have been the exceptions to the rule. And bold, strategic measures hold back the effectiveness of the very few.

During the Aquino administration, policy messages moved by a justice official blamed the media, dismissing the significance of the killings by describing victims as troublemakers and/or flyby-night or string members of the press—so the number of killings spiked. Despite the statements by the country despite an increase in the number of reports the work of advocates, the underlying attitude was one of gross indifference.

Eloquent in promise

The administration of President Benigno Aquino has been eloquent in its promise for reforms in various areas of government, including justice for victims of human rights violations. A critical appointment by his Cabinet, Justice Secretary Leila de Lima presented herself as a staunch and fearless ally in the counter-impunity program. But she must be supported by the entire bureaucracy as well as other government agencies.

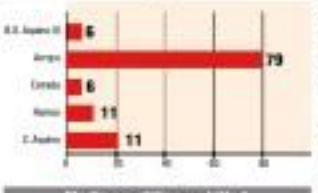
The government's third branch, the judicial system, is separate and equal from the executive. Judicial reform is not one that can be ordered by executive fiat. But it can be pushed by presidential initiative.

The Aquino administration may be poised to be more proactive on these issues. But advocate groups have not yet met the shift of policy or a visible and dramatic action that will counter suspicions. Shoring in the power of presidential action to turn things around, advocates have been demoralized by the lack of the same.

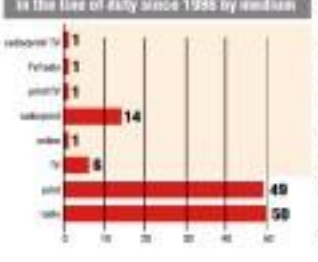
So once again, there is the long and frustrating wait.

(Melinda Quintos de Jesus is the executive director of the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility.)

Journalist/media workers killed in the line of duty by administration



Media practitioners killed in the line of duty since 1986 by medium



CCA: 15 years and a party

THE ASIANEE government has given a grant for the construction and renovation of classrooms in the provinces of Masbate and Agusan del Sur.

The projects, with a combined cost of $213,493 (P9.1 million), will be funded under the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP).

Around 2,000 students in both provinces will benefit, said the Embassy of Japan in a statement posted on its website Friday.

The government of Japan, in the July GGA (Official Development Assistance) donor to the Philippines, launched the GGP in the country in 1989 for the purpose of reducing poverty and helping communities engage in grassroots activities.

Read October 2011, 133 grassroots projects funded by the GGP had been implemented by NGOs, local governments and other organizations.

Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines Toshinao Urabe signed the contracts for the construction and renovation of the schools in Masbate and Agusan del Sur.

The Philippines is on the list of the top ten poorest in the country in 2009, National Statistical and Coordination Board statistics showed the poverty incidence in Masbate and Agusan del Sur at 42.5 percent and 51.2 percent, respectively.

In Milagros town, Masbate, John Miller Elementary School and Magsaysay Elementary School are in urgent need of assistance. John Miller was dilapidated and makeshift classrooms to accommodate its growing number of students, while Magsaysay, established in 1937 and considered the oldest school in town, has classrooms that should be condemned and which pose a serious threat to the students.

The embassy said that under the grant, $113,190 (P4.8 million) will be used to construct two classrooms at John Miller and three classrooms at Magsaysay.

The classrooms will come with desk chairs, blackboards, teacher's tables and chairs. The municipal government of Milagros will also repair seven classrooms in both schools.

In Talacogon town, Agusan del Sur, the Talacogon Central Elementary School, established in 1974, is considered the oldest school in the locality. It is the only school in the municipality with a special Education (Sped) program for poor students.

To cater to the school's age, students are forced to hold classes in shifts because of classrooms. The rising enrollment results in a classroom shortage, forcing the students to use non-academic rooms such as a library and makeshift desks.

With a grant of $98,211 (approximately P4.3 million), the school will be able to construct a new fully furnished six-class room building, the Japanese embassy said.

Thea B. Bonifacio

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The Board of Foreign Service Examinations of the Department of Foreign Affairs announces the holding of the –

2012 FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER (FSO) EXAMINATIONS

to recruit candidates for appointment to the position of Foreign Service Officer, Class IV (FSO IV).

The Examination is composed of five (5) parts which shall be held on the following dates:

Qualifying Test	19 February 2012
Preliminary Interview	01 March 2012 (tentative)
Written Examination	4, 5 & 6 April 2012 (tentative)
Psychological Test	25 to 29 June 2012 (tentative)
Oral Test	28, 30 & 31 August 2012(tentative)

IMPORTANT:

(1) Qualifications:

I. Age Limit – Applicant should not be less than thirty-five (35) years of age on the day of the Qualifying Test or on 19 February 2012.

II. Education – Applicant should be a holder of at least a four (4) year bachelor's degree or higher.

III. Citizenship – Applicant should be a Filipino citizen and has established permanent residence in the Philippines for at least one (1) year prior to the Qualifying Test at the FSO Examinations.

(2) Requirements:

a. Certified True Copy (CTC) of transcript of records from college or university, bearing seal of the college or university;

b. Certified True Copy (CTC) of diploma or certificate of graduation, bearing seal of the college or university;

c. Original birth certificate issued by the National Statistics Office, and

   c. for a naturalized Philippine citizen: copy of naturalization papers or Philippine passport;

   c. for a Philippine citizen who has dual or multiple citizenships: a notarized affidavit stating that upon passing the examination, he/she renounces his/her allegiance to all his/her other countries of citizenship and a permanent resident of the Philippines.

d. For married men and women: certified true copy of marriage certificate issued by the National Statistics Office. If married to a foreigner, he/she must secure from the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, through the Board of Foreign Service Examinations authority to take the FSO Examinations.

e. Eight (8) pieces 1-1/2in. x 2in. black and white or color studio taken photographs, taken within six (6) months before the date of the Qualifying Test, showing the full frontal view of the face of the applicant **with a name tag**, i.e. Juan Dr. dela Cruz, Jr. (photocopied, scanned and digitally enhanced pictures shall not be accepted); and

f. Two (2) **self-addressed and self- stamped envelopes marked as priority mail.**

(3) Deadline:

Completed application forms together with the documentary requirements shall be submitted to any of the DFA Regional Consular Offices enumerated below, not later than **06 January 2012**, or to the DFA Main Office, not later than **13 January 2012**, for evaluation and processing.

(4) Application forms and relevant information regarding the examination may be downloaded from the Department of Foreign Affairs website (**www.dfa.gov.ph**). Forms may also be obtained personally from the following offices of the Department of Foreign Affairs:

DFA Main Office: Board of Foreign Service Examinations, 2nd floor, Department of Foreign Affairs, 2330 Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City * Tel. (02) 834-3067/3093 * Fax (02) 551-5976

DFA/RCO Baguio: Don Marcelino Building, 18 Legarda Road, Baguio City * Tel (074) 424-3388, 442-3388 * Fax (074) 442-2265, ico_baguio@yahoo.com

DFA RCO La Union: Parasto Building, Pagdalagan Norte, San Fernando, La Union * Tel (072) 607-6467, 607-6460 * Fax (072) 607-6461 * Email: dfa_la.union@yahoo.com

DFA RCO Tuguegarao: Regional Government Center, Carig Sur, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan 3500 * Tel (078) 396-6973, 846-1662 * Fax (078) 846-2378 * Email: fsag.cagayan@yahoo.com

DFA/RCO Pampanga: City Central Transport Terminal (CCTT) Lacson Blvd., Corner Olongapo-Gapan Highway, Sasmuan, City of San Fernando, Pampanga ** Tels. (045) 455-2470, 455-2475 * Fax No. (045) 961-6175 * Email: rcopampanga@yahoo.com

DFA/RCO Lucena: 3rd Floor, Pacific Mall Lucena, M.L. Tagarao St., Barangay 14, Lucena City * Tel. (042) 710-0626, 373-1119 * Fax (042) 373-1888* Email: dfarcolc@pldtdsl.net

DFA/RCO Batangas: Batangas Pilgrim and Convention Center, National Road, Kumintang Ilaya, Batangas City * Tel. (043) 702-6518 * Email: dfa.rco.batangas@gmail.com

DFA RCO Puerto Princesa: 2nd Floor, Puerto Princesa City Coliseum, National Highway, Barangay San Pedro, Puerto Princesa City * Tel. (048) 434-7773

DFA/RCO Legazpi: Lacandula Drive, Barangay Cruzada, Legazpi City * Tel. (052) 480-3000, 820-3340 * Fax (052) 480-1773 * Email: rco_legazpi@yahoo.com

DFA RCO Iloilo: Yulo Street, Iloilo City * Tel. (033) 336-1737, (02) 487-3641 * Fax (033) 336-3321 * Email: dfailo@skynet.net

DFA/RCO Bacolod: 2nd Floor, East Block Square, Circumferential Road, Barangay Villa Alvide, Bacolod City * Tel. (034) 434-8338 * Email: dfa_bacolod@yahoo.com

DFA/RCO Cebu: Crossing Lucasa Building, Osmena Blvd. cor Lopa-lopa Street, Cebu City * Tel. (032) 260-3130, 260-8788 * Fax (032) 255-3624 * Email: dfacebu@yahoo.com

DFA/RCO Tacloban: Leyte SMED Center Capitol Site, Sr. Enage, Tacloban City * Tel. (053) 321-6315, (053) 523-0081 * Fax (053) 321-6315 * Email: dfa_tac@yahoo.com

DFA/RCO Zamboanga: Go Hinayo Building, Veterans Avenue, Zamboanga City, Zamboanga del Sur * Tel. (062) 991-6398, (062) 991-2203 * Fax (062) 991-7898 * Email: rcozamboa@yahoo.com

DFA/RCO Cagayan de Oro: Limketkai Drive, Cagayan de Oro City * Tel. (08822) 724-599, (088) 857-2115 * Fax (088)22 726-519 * Email: rco@cdo-weblink.com, rco.cdo@gmail.com

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No holds barred for Leila, woman with balls

From page A1

Israel, who has autism and who inspired his mother to push for the rights of persons with disabilities while she was the chair of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), stays with his family during weekdays because his school is near his dad's place, De Lima said. Vincent and his family stay with her.

After the past politically charged days, De Lima makes sure her family is safe. Malacañang has taken the initiative to limit up her security starting Nov. 19, she said.

Father's advice

De Lima said she continued to believe that her purported defiance of the Supreme Court was legally and morally justifiable.

She said she was aware of the "fish" she had been getting from the legal community but was standing by her decision.

Her father, former Bicolano Commissioner Vicente de Lima, has always been her confidante and guiding light, especially when it comes to making "major decisions."

In this current controversy her father advised her "to be strong."

"He told me to do what is the right thing to do. It will hold [me] personal," De Lima said, adding, however, that her mother was worried.

De Lima felt a vindication of sorts when on Friday, the Supreme Court ruled that one of the conditions of the temporary restraining order (TRO) it had issued—which lifted the travel ban on former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her husband, Jose—had not been met and was thus not yet effective. (See story on Page A1.)

"Technically, that vindicated me because there was nothing to defy. The TRO was not effective," she said.

Judge Tijming, who presides over a Makati Regional Trial Court in Branch 148, did note her friend via text message a month ago about the rocky ride given by the TRO.

But she knew that De Lima would not budge, and that the justice would not budge, both to be known as the one-women barrier that prevented the Arroyos from leaving the country.

'Convicted' performer

Watching the goings-on in Manila from New York City, topnotch lawyer Theodore Te told the Inquirer that De Lima simply "had to do what she had to do and defend it basically by herself," owing to the absence at that time of President Aquino.

"It also was her opportunity to show the President that she could be 'trusted' to run the show," Te said on the phone.

"It believes that De Lima has so far been the only "consistent" performer in Mr. Aquino's Cabinet.

But if there's anything he means, it's for the justice secretary to keep her media-savvy nature in check: "I just wish she would not 'try' cases by press con— She's been very visible in the media. When you're the [chief] opposing authority for criminal charges that have not been recommended yet, you shouldn't go on air acting as if they have been filed because you run the risk of diluting the cases on ground of bias."

While an electoral salvage case had been filed in court against Arroyo, many still believe that the Aquino administration could have moved faster in making the former President accountable for her alleged misdeeds.

"The administration has been praised especially since that, if anything, could not have been performed even by lawyers' delays. But of course, we know Ochoa prepared for this, so evidence will not be easy to obtain," Te said.

Transparency

Critics claim that De Lima wants to be visible in the audience make a headcount for her supposed plan to run a Senate bid in 2013. De Lima has solidified that same question were trying to convince her to run for senator, but said she

[illegible] loud yes to decide.)

Tijming said that she did not think De Lima had any political inclinations, and that her friend was simply being who she was.

"She says what she feels in her heart... Walang pasuy magsalita [We holds herself]," Tijming said, laughing.

De Lima defended herself by saying she had always been an accessible source for the media, even when she was the CHR chair and when she was still an election lawyer.

"I believe in transparency, but I should also know what I can— or not. What I will dispute is what others say—that I am yeah... hairy-hungry. I don't think it a my fault that the media would 'ambush' me morning and afternoon," she said.

Tijming said the justice secretary was a friend who would regale one with stories and was herself always interested in how one's stories.

"She laughs a lot! Nice-legay woman!" Tijming said.

She said the grandmother of two had a sense of humor and would call "Mack" when teased about being introduced to men.

Tijming said that at their sorority and fraternity events, De Lima would let her hair down and would always be the first to urge everyone to get on their feet to sing and dance.

She said De Lima also had a "compromise-ness, self" side to her even if many saw her only as the "tough-talking justice secretary."

"I know freedom are reserved for her family, especially spending time with her kids and grandkids," Tijming said.

She added that De Lima was "a busy simple person who would rather have a hamburger-fight" with friends than lunch at a fancy restaurant.

Bar topnotcher

Yesterday, even while nursing a fever, De Lima went about her usual weekend routine—going to the market and the grocery.

Reportedly, people came up to her and said that they were "supportive of what I did," she said.

Tijming said, however, that De Lima did not always have "fairy" side where they were in law school.

"So with her job now, she was very honored on her studies. She would be so engrossed with studying that it was difficult to talk about anything else," she said. But she's not so cold, though. Just very intelligent, in fact. I passed commercial law because of her. I borrowed her book where she had all these marginal notes that examined the professor's[] quotations and the answers," Tijming said.

De Lima topped the bar exams in 1990.

Tijming said what she wants

SILVERIO: Court spokesperson Midas Marquez explaining to the media the court's decision. MIKE ALQUINTO

Justices Arturo Brion, Antonio Carpio, Roberto Abad, Martin Villarama Jr., Jose Mendoza, Bienvenido Reyes, and Estela Perlas-Bernabe.

Villarama and Abad were among the eight justices who voted to have the TRO on Nov. 15 lifted after again voted to uphold it on Friday.

The third vote proceeded from the result of the second vote—whether, considering that the high court found that there was failure to comply with a condition imposed by the court.

"Nevertheless, good faith and all, the legal effect of such noncompliance is the same—[with]utmost consideration under the rule thereof for failure to comply faithfully with a condition imposed by this Court for its issuance," she said.

Voted 6 times

Brion recalled that the justices voted six times to deliberate on the various petitions on the Arroyo case during a special session on Friday morning.

The first vote was on whether the first 15 resolutions granting the TRO would be reconsidered or not. The Nov. 15 vote was upheld 8-5.

The issue for the second vote, proposed by one of the justices, was on whether the TRO issued by the clerk of court should be recalled for failure to comply with Condition No. 2.

On this matter, Brion said, the vote was 7-6, finding that there was no compliance with the second condition of the TRO.

The seven were Justices Brion, Carpio, Abad, Villarama, Mendoza, Reyes and Perlas-Bernabe.

The justice said the clerk made a mistake, "mistaken" ing the way the TRO was issued, "misreading the certification despite unmistakable entry by the Arroyos with one of the RTC's conditions imposed by the

Where's Garci?

BAGUIO, Baguio—Virgilio Garcillano of the "Hello Garci" election fraud scandal left his home here with his wife early yesterday, or a day after the arrest of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Garcillano is said to be the election commissioner whose voice was caught in tapped conversations with Arroyo during the presidential election in 2004 that is believed to have been rigged.

Neighbors said the former poll official had left to a car with his wife. But the neighbors were not certain if the couple brought anything with them.

A woman from inside Garcillano's house said she and her companions were told that the couple would be attending a wedding.

She said she had no idea if the couple would be returning within the day or where the wedding would be held. —Bobby Lagsa, Inquirer Mindanao

HOLDING COURT Ferdinand Topacio, lawyer of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, faces the media outside St. Luke's Medical Center on Saturday, a day after a warrant was issued for his client's arrest and on the day she was booked for the nonbailable offense of electoral sabotage.

GMA mug shots while hooked to IV drip

From page A1

profile (left and right side) for use in the book reference," Senior Supt. Joel Coronel, chief of the Metro Manila regional Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), told reporters in a briefing yesterday afternoon.

Police took Arroyo's fingerand palm prints, and was checked by police medical officers to determine whether the beleaguered had to remain at St. Luke's Medical Center in Taguig City where the warrant for her arrest was served on Friday evening.

Said Coronel: "(She) will remain under guard and detention here ... until such time the warrant will be returned to court and a compliance report submitted to court. And it will be up to the court, again exercising its sound discretion, whether to order the continued confinement or release or allow her home or transfer her to another detention facility."

Arroyo's husband, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, relatives and friends surrounded her during the two-hour procedure that began at 1:45 p.m.

Coronel's earlier reports that her family had asked to be allowed to supply her mug shots, caused said police photographers took Arroyo's booking shots. He said the police were not accustomed to any such request.

He said because however was "not capacitated to hold anything" at the time of the booking, police authorities held up the plans on which her name and date another were written.

Coronel said that Arroyo's mug's request to withhold her mug shots from the public. Coronel said that Arroyo's booking records—mug shots, finger and palm prints—would be filed in court tomorrow for safekeeping.

Mug shots of former President Joseph Estrada were publicly released when he was booked on plunder charges at the national police headquarters in Camp Crame in April 2001, just a few months after he was ousted in January 2001.

Arroyo took his place and was elected in 2004 in controversial polls, serving a total of 10 stormy years in office until June 2010.

Mike Arroyo's lawyer, Ferdinand Topacio, called on authorities and the media to keep the Barangay lawmaker's mug shots from public view, saying "she's not in her best appearance."

Due respect

Coronel said Arroyo was given due respect as a former head

IT'S DONE Police Senior Supt. Joel Coronel, chief of the Metro Manila CIDG, talks to media after booking former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

of state throughout the procedure.

"We took consideration of her present medical condition ... She was suffering from severe stress and hypertension (Friday) night (when) the arrest warrant was served. I was informed by our medical officers that (she's not feeling well yet), for this reason, we gave her a small latitude (for courtesy and respect accorded to a former President," he said.

Senator Sen. Teresa Aquino Oreta said Arroyo during the booking, noted that she was weak and had additional pressure of 140/100.

"We saw her fragile-looking, suffering from hypertension. She's on IV fluids and of course in words (sic). She's slightly dehydrated, this-looking. Still looking, much thinner than how she looked before," Subingsil said.

Arroyo's chief physician, Dr. Juliet Gopez Cervantes, said the patient had been refusing to eat and was given antibiotics because of laboratory indications in her lung intestine.

She is expected to remain confined in the hospital for several more days or weeks.

Multiorgan involvement

Cervantes said some improvements in the condition of Arroyo's urinary spine, which was operated on earlier this year.

Doctors are monitoring a bone growth in Arroyo's neck area.

Asked if Arroyo's condition was life-threatening, Cervantes said: "In a doctor, when you say matter of life or death, there is multiorgan involvement, there is deterioration of the vital signs. That's also regarding that is a matter of life or death. Probably, objectively speaking, if we are talking about that, she is not in that condition as of now."

"However, we do not know what is in store for her. If this bone that is growing is not strong enough, that any time it will collapse if support will be removed, that will be a matter of life or death."

Cervantes added that there was "many risk" in allowing Arroyo to travel but that she could endure a flight given proper medical support.

But Topacio said Arroyo's health was deteriorating as a result of her arrest.

"Since she is still in the hospital under guard, then I would assume that her doctors have informed the arresting team that Arroyo will be discharged today, physiologically if she is moved from the hospital," he said.

Only the start

In Bali, Indonesia, Commission on Elections Secretary Sixto Brillantes Jr. said the arrest of Arroyo was only the start of a string of cases against her.

"This is the first one filed by us. There are other cases [to be] filed by civil society groups," he said in an interview at the Bali International Convention Center.

Brillantes said it was the government's duty to file the case because of the long time needed to build it up and convince witnesses to come out. "We just want to make sure we comply with the law and the dues of the [to]," he said.

But he reiterated President Aquino's directive to Justice Secretary Leila de Lima, be the government to consult all concerned about Arroyo as a former President, his said there would be no objection to any motion she would file to extend her hospital stay, "for the time being."

"We don't know what's going to happen yet," said Brillantes, who is in Bali as the Philippine representative at the opening ceremony and plenary session of the Asean summit in Bali.

He added that the matter of whether Arroyo would eventually be detained would "ultimately [be] the decision of the court."

Supplemental petition

But Topacio said he would file tomorrow at the Supreme Court a supplemental petition with a very urgent motion for the issuance of a temporary restraining order questioning the legality of the joint investigation committee of the Department of Justice (DOJ) and Commission on Elections (Comelec) that recommended the filing of the electoral sabotage case against Arroyo.

Topacio agreed to an interview at St. Luke's after conferring with other lawyers of the former First Couple. He said the supplemental had yet to resolve the constitutional question involving Department Order No. 005, which created the joint DOJ-Comelec investigation committee that looked into the alleged electoral fraud committed by Arroyo in 2004 and 2007.

The supplemental petition will seek to invalidate all proceedings conducted by the joint committee that led to the filing of the case against Arroyo at a Pasay City court and the issuance of the warrant for her arrest.

Topacio also denounced the quick issuance of the arrest warrant. "What happened yesterday (Friday) was not court-cold exercise should. It's a mirror mistake," he said.

He described as unjustified for the criticism that the eight Supreme Court justices who had voted to lift the travel ban on Arroyo were biased because they were her appointees.

He said Topacio, he said, the five justices who voted against the lifting were appointees of Mr. Aquino and were therefore also biased.

"That's equal protection. What's sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander," he said.

'P-Noy Express'

Arroyo's legal spokesperson, Raul Lambino, said she was "a victim of the P-Noy Express"—a reference to Mr. Aquino.

"What's happening to Mrs. Arroyo is not an ordinary railroad act but a P-Noy Express that violates all laws and rules, even the Supreme Court. And this is very alarming," Lambino told the Inquirer.

On Mr. Aquino's intervention to Justices Secretary De Lima to accord courtesies to Arroyo, Lambino said this was just a "pag-pogi (bash, good) points."

"What they're saying is something, but what they're actually doing is another thing," he said.

According to Lambino, the issuance of the arrest warrant by Pasay City Regional Trial Court Branch 112 at a time when the Supreme Court had just restored to process ruling that upheld Arroyo's right to travel only proved that the regime administration is "here to persecuting her."

Sandiganbayan

Lambino said his group had filed a motion for consideration before the Pasay RTC. Specifically, he wants the court to take note that Arroyo's electoral offenses should be handled by the Sandiganbayan.

He also said he would handle the Arroyo camp's next arguments before the Supreme Court on Tuesday on the validity of the DOJ's Circular No. 41 which barred the former President from leaving the country.

With a report from TJ Burgonio in Indonesia

DOCTOR'S CONCERN Juliet Gopez Cervantes, attending physician of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, explains her assistant's condition to the media outside St. Luke's Medical Center in Taguig City.

Palace: If TRO not final, how can De Lima be held in contempt?

By Christian V. Esguerra

PRESIDENT Aquino's spokesperson has floated a counter-argument for Justice Secretary Leila de Lima, who is facing contempt charges for defying a temporary restraining order (TRO) issued by the Supreme Court.

Edwin Lacierda yesterday said his Justice counsel is defend the embattled De Lima, who had ordered immigration and airport officials to bar former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo from leaving the country on Nov. 15 despite the TRO.

On Nov. 18, the high court ordered De Lima to explain within 10 days why she should not be cited for indirect contempt for defying the TRO. The charge carries a fine of not more than P30,000 or imprisonment of up to six months, or both.

Lacierda argued that the high court had not yet declared the TRO, which Arroyo had supposedly failed to fully comply with.

"If (the) TRO was issued by [the Supreme Court] with conditions and (the) conditions were not complied with, how can it be immediately executory? (and if [the] TRO was not immediately executory, how can De Lima be held in contempt as prayed for by the Arroyos when there was no effective TRO?" Lacierda tweeted to his 19,750 followers on the popular microblogging site.

Replying to another Twitter message, he said: "The (didn't do it) by 'P(N)oy' and there was nothing to defy in the first place since the TRO was ineffective."

Voting 8-5 on Nov. 15, the high court issued a TRO, which, in effect, allowed Arroyo and her husband to go abroad, ostensibly for medical treatment. But the following conditions were set—Arroyo and her husband should post a P2-million cash bond, appoint a legal representative, and inform the Philippine embassy or consulate in the country they intended to visit.

Lacierda cited the dissenting opinion of Associate Justice Mariano Del Castillo, who castigated Supreme Court spokesperson Atty. Midas Marquez for allegedly "interpreting" the ruling of the tribunal. (See story on Page A7.)

He tweeted: "It was right for government to wait for a formal copy of the SC resolution rather than rely on the SC spokesperson, who was contested by [Associate] Justice

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This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

Loida Nicolas Lewis gets Eleanor Roosevelt legacy award

FILIPINO-AMERICAN businesswoman and philanthropist Loida Nicolas Lewis was awarded the Trailblazer of Democracy Award by The Eleanor's Legacy organization on October 24, 2011 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in New York City.

Eleanor's Legacy which is an organization formed to empowering women's political aspirations follow in the footsteps of former United States First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, honored Lewis for her continued contributions to the empowerment of women in the political and public arena.

LOIDA NICOLAS LEWIS (left) flanked by US Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney and Senator for New York, Charles Schumer, is the first Filipino-American to get the award.

Eleanor's Legacy supports Democratic women who are aspiring for local and state offices in the State of New York.

Lewis is active in political campaigns. She was a supporter of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's campaigns, as well as the current Philippine President's campaign in 2010, when she visited different US states to campaign for then Sen. Benigno Aquino III. She is also an advocate of voter registration and mobilization, encouraging Filipino Americans to "share power in their members."

"The triumph of Loida Nicolas Lewis' life reminds us all that the real legacy of Eleanor Roosevelt is an obligation to think of one, others as citizens of the world," said New York Sen. Hiram Thompson. "Loida has followed in the footsteps of Mrs. Roosevelt. Eleanor Roosevelt was known as the first lady of the world, and Loida's vision of a borderless world, where children are given a chance to learn, where getting young women education to lead is not consistent to New York State."

Also among the guests was then Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer, who also spoke highly of Lewis.

"Loida Lewis is one of our nation's leading Filipina women," said Schumer. "Fifteen years ago, when there was a dearth and shortage of money in this country, and the talent of Filipina women to come here and be trained was being hijacked by the same kind of neo-thinking approach to immigration that you may exhibit to Washington today. Loida led the charge to change. There are now thousands of Filipina nurses in America, and particularly in New York."

Just as Mrs. Roosevelt stepped to the forefront when her husband President Franklin D. Roosevelt fell ill during his presidency, Lewis stepped forward as CEO of her husband Reginald F. Lewis' investment firm TLC Beatrice following his untimely death at the age of 50. Lewis, who was the first Asian woman to pass the bar exam in New York without studying in the United States, showed she was a capable businesswoman in her own right, eventually the company's debt while making a series of decisions that resulted in an internal return of 33 percent for stockholders.

"I accept this with great honor and humility, and I am honored to represent my fellow Filipinos" said Lewis who was the first and only Filipina Eleanor Roosevelt Legacy Awardee. During her speech, Lewis shared her success to achieving success. She named goal setting, maintaining Order in your life and having determination in your endeavors.

As a philanthropist, Lewis has contributed a considerable amount to a number of causes, such as The Lewis College in her hometown of Jennings Louisiana, that gives scholarships to Filipino children from pre-Kindergarten to university. Her People's Alternative Enrichment foundation, is involved in micro-financing, be chair of 33 groups for Gender Government (UNIFEM), Lewis led contributions prayer forums at UN commissions and cities around the world last August 21, 2011 for the peaceful resolution of the South China Sea dispute with China. She also held rallies in front of the China Consular offices in the US last July.

PILIPINOS SPEAK OUT Over 200 concerned Filipino Americans in the East Coast joined Nicolas Lewis (center) in the simultaneous protests against China's incursions in the West Philippine Sea earlier this year.

'My OFW husband came home a different man'

By Susan K.

VICKY'S story began like those of many wives whose husbands leave to seek jobs overseas—full of hope for a better future.

"I used to hear both singing in my ears every time I heard the name of the place—Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. I can't explain the joy I felt every time I received a letter. I felt hope, love, longings, kisses, and hugs were enclosed in those envelopes from my beloved husband... and they came one after the other," she recalled.

She married her husband in 1986, and after a year they had a son. "It was a blissful marriage," said Vicky. "My friends can attest that he put me on a pedestal. I was a lucky wife, they said."

Her husband left the house to work abroad because he thought that what we were both earning here in the Philippines would not be enough to provide our son a better future. So in January 1988, he decided to try his luck in the Kingdom." He left a two-year-old marriage and a year-old son.

"I was the typical, supportive wife. Although deep inside I was hurting, I was also willing to sacrifice. And I loved him even more."

But fast-forward—2011. "My husband is now living with another woman. Our marriage started to crumble in 1993, before the birth of our second child."

Vicky said her husband came home from the Kingdom a changed man—a reckless and abusive man. "He was no longer the same person I married. I saw a completely stranger. It was hard to

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since the beginning in all love story I didn't know exactly what kind of life he had while he was abroad."

"I persevered. Perhaps, I thought, this too, will pass. Perhaps he was also a victim of society as much as me, his family."

But after more than a decade living the nightmare of a battered wife, more times feeling like a zombie and seeing the look of horror in her children's eyes, Vicky finally had the courage to ask him to leave, citing laws against domestic violence.

"We have moved on. My son is trying to finish his course and is now a third year college student. My daughter just graduated cum laude from a well-known university and is now employed."

The government sings high praises of OFWs, they call them the "unsung heroes." They sacrifice for their families; bring in dollars. They help the Philippine economy, etc.

This is another side of the story. What do they call the victims of abusive OFWs?

Susan Andes, a.k.a. Susan K is on board at RADYO INQUIRER 990 (DZIQ) AM. Absolutely to Friday, 7:00-9: 30 p.m. (Manila) time. For streaming: www.dziq.am/i, Twitter: @DZIQ990AM/@DZIQ990 E-mail: susan@batangpinoy.com/ http://batangpinoy.com/susan/

Ways to return to the US after deportation

PETER was an undocumented immigrant who overstayed in California for more than eight years. He married a US citizen and obtained conditional residence status for two years. His green card, however, was not renewed because it was discovered that his marriage was not entered into good faith but was in fact fraudulent. Peter was deported. He returned to Manila to live with his 64-year old father Ricardo.

While in the Philippines, Peter was informed by a friend that the only way he might return to the US was through a petition by a family member. Reluctantly, Peter's elderly parents, happened to be a Model Site 9 veteran and a US citizen. He convinced 84-year old Ricardo to go to the US and file a petition for him. He purchased a one-way ticket for his father and on Oct. 1 Ricardo arrived in the US.

Upon his arrival, Ricardo worked on filing the petition for his son. He approached a free legal aid group and was told that after filing this petition, Peter would have to wait approximately 15 years before a visa would be issued, given the severe backlog in family petitions. Ricardo said that because of his age, he might no longer see the day she was in finally issued to his son.

Unspeakable ordeal

The petition process was not the only issue complicating Ricardo's stay in the US. During his first few weeks, he stayed with a distant relative in San Francisco. As he was not able to accept of handicapped himself, he lost his welcome as his relative's residence and found himself in a restaurant homeless shelter. Homeless and longing for the care of his friends and family, Ricardo called his son Peter and begged him to send him money and a ticket to go back to the Philippines. Peter expressed his concerns about his petition and asked his father if he could stay longer in San Francisco. Ricardo nevertheless insisted on returning to the Philippines.

Ricardo would have been caused from traveling to the US and going through this unspeakable ordeal had Peter received accurate information about the process of returning after deportation. His father's presence in the US was not necessary to file the petition. The statutory period prohibiting returns to the US imposed after deportation may be waived by filing the appropriate application.

IMFO
Jennifer Santos Francisco

Deportation has consequences. There are statutory periods of time before a deportee is allowed to return to the US. Those who were forced to return to the homeland through a final order are barred from returning for 10 years. There is a bar of 20 years for an individual who has a second deportation.

These 10-year and 20-year bars apply only to deportees who do not have crimes classified as aggravated felonies in their record. If the deportee was previously convicted of an aggravated felony, the bar prohibiting return to the US becomes permanent.

For those who were sent back to their country of origin at the point of entry or those "stipulated to deport" cases, there is a five-year bar before being allowed to return to the US.

Those who leave the US during the pendency of their deportation cases are also considered barred for 10 years.

Exceptions to the rule

There are cases where certain individuals who are under such statutory bars are allowed to travel back to the US prior to the end of the statutory period.

One who has a 10-year bar from returning to the US may be allowed on compelling circumstances if certain conditions are met and applications to the US Citizenship and Immigration Service to lessen are approved.

A deportee may file for permission to reapply for admission. The grant of such application removes inadmissibility resulting from the prior deportation. An application seeking permission to reapply for admission is a discretionary remedy granted to the deportee and is subject to review only on the basis of a showing of arbitrariness—a very high standard. Immigration officers evaluate cases on a balancing test and must review all of the factors presented by the parties.

Among the factors considered are the basis for deportation, recency of deportation, length of residence in the US, the applicant's moral character, the applicant's respect for law and order, evidence of rehabilitation and rehabilitation, the applicant's family responsibilities, any admissibility under other sections of law, hardship to the applicant and others, and the need for the applicant's services in the US.

The various undertakings by Peter which caused such hardship for his 84-year-old father could have been prevented. Discussing deportees who still appear to return to the US, legally those separated from family members, family members left behind in the US) do have a legal recourse.

Jennifer may be reached at jsantos@sanlaw.com or at 887 7177 or 721 1993.

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Editor Alexander S. Lilunday

Complete Bangkal cleanup ensured

FPIC welcomes help of gov't task force in the restoration activities

FIRST Philippine Industrial Corp. (FPIC) welcomes the help of the Inter-Agency Committee on Environmental Health (IACEH), the government task force formed to help ensure that the cleanup and restoration of petroleum-leak affected areas in Barangay Bangkal in Makati City adheres to international standards and procedures.

"We are glad to have the IACEH Task Force and are confident they will continue to recognize and approve of our restoration activities. We are doing our very best to tap both local and international experts to achieve our goal of complete restoration of Barangay Bangkal," said FPIC president Tony Meloto in a statement.

Significant efforts

"FPIC to date has made significant efforts to ensure that the requirements for restoration set forth by the government are complied with and that they meet international standards," Meloto added.

Meloto stressed that because the country has no existing regulations and guidelines in the remediation of contaminated sites, FPIC has been following international remediation standards.

"The support and direction that the government task force has been extending to us has been invaluable to our commitment to meet these criteria of remediation standards. They will help us deliver our promise of complete restoration to the petroleum-leak affected areas," Meloto said.

The IACEH is a government body created by Office of Executive Order No. 466 in was formed in February 2011 by Health Secretary Enrique T. Ona who also chairs the IACEH.

The Technical Working Group is now headed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) with the Department of Health (DOH) serving as its secretariat.

Restoration focus

Other members of the group include representatives from the Department of Energy (DOE), the UP National Pollutin Management and Control Center and the Makati City government.

The remediation activities are focused on rehabilitating the West Tower Condominium and the removal of the remaining petroleum spillage that has settled mostly underground in the area of the South Super Highway and the adjacent service road near the Magallanes Flyover.

The task force plans to consolidate its studies with those of the Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA), which were done by a team of Makati City consultants headed by Dr. Carlo Arcilla, as well as with the data from FPIC experts.

Standards reviewed

Initially, the standards set by the US Environmental Protection agency, World Health Organization and the Dutch government are being reviewed and considered for the health and environmental guidelines. The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) has previously approved the environmental remediation efforts of pipeline operator FPIC in Barangay Bangkal.

DOST Industrial Technology Development Institute director Dr. Nestor C. Almanzor approved

BANGKAL, A10

CIRCLE TREAT
Members of a group of young cyclists practice their routine at the Quezon City Memorial Circle on Saturday, as they get ready for performances in Christmas parties and events. (RAMON MUNOZ)

Shoe caravan fetches ₱11M in sales

By Kristine Felisse Mangunay

AFTER a smoldering start of Metro Manila, sales generated from the shoe caravan of the city government of Marikina have reportedly reached more than double the original target.

Mayor Del de Guzman said that the revenues from the caravan, which showcased the products of 30 participating local shoe manufacturers, reached more than P11,845,082, or more than three times the government's P4 million goal.

The caravan, which officially ended on Nov. 10, was part of the Gawaan Festival launched by the city government ends October, then aims to revive what many have come to regard as an already-ailing shoe industry.

In a span of nine months, the caravan visited the cities of Valenzuela, Malabon, Navotas, Caloocan, Quezon, Taguig, Pasay, Mandaluyong, Antipolo, San Juan, Manila, Pasay, Cubao, Pasañajan and Pasig.

"We are very happy with the results ... We are thankful to the

SHOE, A10

One doctor loses ₱1M to 'Dugo Dugo gang' …

By Julie M. Aurelio

SIX ELDERLY physicians lost over P1 million in cash, jewelry and other valuables—all in a salary loan…after his beautiful wife told to retrieve her boss's vault because of an "accident."

The Quezon City police Director said the incident was likely the work of the Dugo Dugo Gang, which employs clowns in tricking maids to be arresting accomplices in the theft of their employers' valuables.

Dr. Marcelino Ostrea, 68, told police that he lost jewelry, cash, passports, car keys and papers all neatly in a safety vault at his home in Xavierville II, Barangay Loyola Heights.

Police learned that a new maid, Jocelyn Hinis, 18, was the one who was duped over the phone by still unknown culprits on Friday afternoon.

SPO4 Alan de la Cruz, chief of QCPD's theft and robbery section, said Hinis was even ensnared by a subdivision security guard on her way out to deliver the items to her boss's "aide."

Hinis, in an attempt to explain the purpose of her "errand," asked Ostrea's supposed "secretary" a certain Jean, to talk to the security guard blocking her way out of the village.

Hinis told police that on her way out of the subdivision aboard a tricycle, a guard at the gate approached her to ask where she came from and what she was carrying.

Hinis said she showed the safety box inside the plastic bag which she got from her employer's house.

The unnamed security guard even spoke to "Jean," the supposed secretary, for five minutes after which he let Hinis pass through, apparently convinced.

Police learned later that would has been nothing only he a months at the Ostrea residence when a woman who identified herself as "Michelle" called Hinis on Friday at 2 p.m.

The woman told Hinis that her employers got involved in a road rage incident and needed cash, fast. Another friends then talked to Hinis and claimed to be Mina, Ostrea's wife.

The maid told police that the woman claiming to be Ostrea's wife really sounded like Mina, convincing her that her employers were really in trouble.

He is true, using Hinis's statement, said Michelle spoke again to Hinis and told her to get the safety box from the master bedroom which was unlocked.

Hinis recalled that she was told to bring the safety box in front of the bus stand near the Old North Edsa where her boss, so as to meet her, but the secretary "Jean," came in their stead.

The woman took the box from the unsuspecting maid and told Hinis to go the bus stop where the Ostrea's will pick her up, but the maid waited midnight to no avail.

> *… another robbed of car parked outside her home*

By Jeannette I. Andrade

A DOCTOR last early Friday morning her car in Ortea Guerrero, who took the vehicle from her in gunpoint outside her home in Manila.

Annette Paguirigan, 35, a doctor who specializes in obstetrics and gynecology, of Scout Street in Sta. Ana, lodged a complaint with the Manila Police District antikarnapping and hijacking (MPD-AHC) unit.

In her complaint, Paguirigan told police investigators that she was about to board her Hyundai car (PBO-166) parked outside her house at around 5 a.m. Friday when three men accosted her.

The men brandished .45 caliber pistols at her, forcibly took her car, and drove off in the stolen vehicle.

Police are conducting follow-up operations for the identification and arrest of the car thieves.

NOEL BAZAAR SERIES OPENS

The Noel Bazaar Series opened last November 18 with a ribbon cutting ceremony participated in by representatives of the organizers and sponsors. Shown in photo are (from left) Mr. Jose Luis Yulo, President of Century Corporation, GMA talents Francheska Farr and Yeng Alaida, Ms. Nieveleina Rosario, Executive Director of Bantayog ng mga Bayani Foundation, Mr. John christopher Tan, Business Development officer of AquaGuest, Ms. Maycee Bautista, Project Director of Noel Bazaar, Ms. Sulemie Villena, President of The Foreign Post, Ms. Carie Belonio, Marketing Officer of Go Negosyo, Ms. Rio Prieto of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and Ms. Ula Codles, AVP for Marketing of the World Trade Center. The Noel Bazaar is on its 11th year, and is the most recognizable and most anticipated holiday bazaar in the metropolis. The Noel Bazaar will be open until November 27 at the World Trade Center, from 11AM to 9PM on weekdays and 11AM to 10PM on weekends."

'Front' of burrowing burglars named

By Jeannette I. Andrade

THE MANILA Police District (MPD) released yesterday a picture of the woman suspected of acting as a "front" for a group of burrowing burglars who early this month stole more than P500,000 worth of jewelry and cash from a pawnshop in Manila.

SPO1 Carlo Garcia, chief of the MPD theft and robbery section, identified the group's front as Dina Reyes, who also goes by aliases "Marilou" and "Daisy."

Garcia said Reyes was charged before the city prosecutor's office with robbery after she was identified by witnesses as the person who leased last month a commercial stall from where the burrowing burglars dug their way through to the Sangalang Pawnshop along Del Pan, Sta. Mesa Street in Sta. Mesa.

The robbery was discovered at around 8:30 a.m. of Nov. 2, when employees of the pawnshop reported for work after the long Halloween weekend.

Investigators showed the robbers got into the pawnshop through a tunnel dug on the ground and emptied the vault of P20,000 in cash and jewelry worth P500,000.

The other stall of the rented unit found inside a commercial mall, four houses apart, owned by Nestrado de Guzman.

Garcia revealed that apart from Reyes, her alleged accomplices Nestor Perigallo, alias "Dindin," of Caloocan City; Joel Buhayan; and a still unidentified cohort were also charged before the city prosecutor's office for the pawnshop robbery.

The case investigators told the inquirer that the three were parked out by the witnesses off a repair's gallery of the Caloocan City police.

"The three were personally arrested for robbery by the Caloocan City police, sometime in 2008," Garcia pointed out.

The owner of the commercial mall, he said, identified Reyes as the same woman who leased the stall on Oct. 15 paying P30,000 for the rental one month deposit and one month's advance rental. De Guzman claimed that he was told that the tenants were planning to set up a rice retail outlet.

Garcia told the inquirer that the burglars used the woman as a front to avoid suspicion, and that it was part of the gang's mode of operation. After renting the stall, he pointed out, the suspects apparently planned and worked in two weeks, from the time they rented the stall, to burrow through to the pawnshop.

Ruckus at QC jail

By Julie M. Aurelio

AN INMATE reportedly suffering from mental illness caused a ruckus at the Quezon City Jail past midnight Saturday when he climbed the jail's ceiling after picking fights with fellow jailbirds.

Jail warden, Supt. Joseph Sila, said the inmate, Ricardo Bascano, 37, was a bit of a "troublemaker" at the jampacked city jail.

The accused is reportedly facing murder charges and has a history of picking fights with fellow detainees.

Sila said Bascano challenged a fellow detainee to a square off late Friday night but jail guards calmed him. He was told to keep still but instead, he scaled the jail's beams until he reached the ceiling.

Jail officers called for help from a rescue team of the Bureau of Fire Protection in order to bring Bascano down at least three hours.

UNDER CONTROL
A security personnel with a guard dog patrols the premises of the Dr. Luis Y. Abaya Medical Center in Tagaig City Friday night which practically glows with Christmas lights on.

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Bangkal cleanup

From page A20

the Environmental Technology Verification (ETV) of the Multi-Phase Extraction (MPE) Technology that the PPIC has been using for its remediation efforts in the affected area.

"The performance of the (proposed remediation) technology has been proven already and certified by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US-EPA). The technology has been applied for remediation of various contaminated sites in US for many years with satisfactory results," Hinsanan said.

The review by the DOST of the proposed MPE technology was also requested by PPIC's multinational environmental services contractor CH2MHILL Philippines Inc. whose team of experts bring the knowledge gained from a wide range of projects around the world to create innovative solutions that are also models for the industry.

PPIC had also installed 10 more submersible pumps at the oil spill. An areas in the nipay Bangkal is spread up the recovery of nearly 1,000 liters of Fuel that leaked from the ruptured portion of its pipeline.

Shoe caravan …

From page A21

LGUs in Metro Manila we visited (Secretary) it helped one shoe makers promote and sell their products," Teresita said.

Earlier, Valenzuela Mayor Rhoeven Gonzalez said that he would order their hands of pairs of shoes to be given away as Christmas gifts to city hall employees.

The mayors of several other cities likewise expressed the same intent.

In the first week alone, the shoe manufacturers reportedly generated P2,365,763 in sales, a figure that increased to P3,001,200 in the second week.

"… We have proven that Marikina is still very trained when it comes to quality made shoes," Teresita said.

METROBRIEFS

'Happy hour' turns tragic

"HAPPY hour" ended tragically for a 48-year-old construction worker when he died before dawn yesterday at a hospital an hour after he was found unconscious inside the restroom of a beerhouse in Manila. Police identified the victim as Mark Bernabe, a skip tracker of the City Police Mail in Binondo. Investigators learned that Bernabe had gone to the spa night to a drinking binge with his colleagues and buddies in Tondo. One of Bernabe's companions, Lodi Valencia, told police that Bernabe had went to the toilet at around 11 p.m. When Bernabe had been a long time in coming out of the gents, Valencia went to the toilet to check on him but found him sprawled on the toilet bowl unconscious. Valencia claimed that he thought that Bernabe was merely drunk and decided to leave him inside the toilet to sleep off his drunkenness. However two hours later, when the group was leaving, they found Bernabe still unconscious and noticed that his hands were cold and that he no longer moved. This prompted the men to bring him to the nearest hospital, where he died while undergoing treatment.

Jeannette I. Andrade

'Chop-chop' case probed

THEY are like separate pieces of a puzzle waiting to be solved. Police are now investigating the gruesome murder of a man whose severed body parts were thrown in different places in Valenzuela City and were found on Saturday. SPO1 Percy Villanueva of the Valenzuela City police station said the body parts were wrapped in three and thrown in different places. SPO2 Arnold San Juan told the inquirer that a certain George Cace came forward and identified the victim based on the severed head recovered by the police. Cace claimed the severed head belonged to Julius Cace, a former watchman of the Langka Resort. Yesterday, Senior Supt. Wilson Mayor, chief of police who led a team of field investigators in Barangay Karuhatan confirmed Cace's information. He added that three were on bailed accounts found in any part of the victim's body.

Aristher Abiktan Magcalas

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Chanco

PROTESTERS gather under a poster showing Aliaa Abd El Fatah, a blogger arrested by the military, in Tahrir Square on Nov. 18. AFP/FILE

Egyptian Islamists rally to protest military rule

CAIRO—Tens of thousands of Islamists jammed Tahrir Square on Friday, demanding the swift exit of Egypt's interim military rulers in the most significant challenge to their authority since the ouster of President Hosni Mubarak nine months ago.

The massive turnout was the first time that Egypt's Islamists had so openly and aggressively challenged military rule, ending an uneasy truce that had prevailed as long as the military appeared willing to allow the Islamists as much of a say in Egypt's future as they could win at the ballot box.

That truce fell apart, on the eve of parliamentary elections, after the military council spelled out for the first time its plans to preserve a decisive role for itself in Egyptian politics for two or three, elevating itself above civilian control and imposing rules to protect individual and minority rights. And after uniting, for many of the protests organized by liberals since Mubarak's ouster, Islamists took to the streets on Friday in a force-backlash.

"The people didn't sacrifice hundreds of lives in the revolution so that the military would jump over their will," said Ibrahim Ibrahim, a teacher at a religious school who traveled from Minnesota, about 1,20 kilometers away, to attend. "If they want to close, what is the point of parliamentary elections?"

The rally represented the beginning of a new battle between Egypt's two most powerful political forces, the military and the once-outlawed Muslim Brotherhood, that leaves Egyptian liberals and leftists anxious and divided on the sidelines.

"Each side is drawing a line in the sand over its future role in the political process," said professor Emad Shahin, an Egyptian scholar at Notre Dame who was in Tahrir Square on Friday. "The military forces would like to secure an exit from the transitional period with some kind of immunity for their future role in the political process, and the Islamists think that this could put a check on their power even if they win in clean and fair elections."

After sunset, as thousands of protesters prepared to camp overnight in the square, the military council responded, declaring in a statement that it refused to withdraw its guidelines for how it would continue to debate them with political leaders through the beginning of the coming elections. The move ensured that the deeply polarizing debate would continue to grip the country as voters go to the polls, beginning Nov. 28. Many liberals were convinced that fears of military rule and a religious takeover (from liberals stayed home despite the stated democratic demands of the protest) giving power to elected civilians. In fact, some liberals appeared to be looking to the military council to act as a hedge against a religious takeover and to impose a "bill of rights" before elections that the Islamists might win.

"The liberals would rather prolong the transitional phase than accept the results of clean and fair elections, which shows they are not very sure about their weight in society and politics," Shahin said, suggesting they preferred "to cooperate with those in power." AFP/MV

US probes cyber attack on water system

WASHINGTON—Federal investigators are looking into a report that hackers managed to remotely shut down a utility's water pump in central Illinois last week, in what could be the first known, foreign cyber attack on a US infrastructure.

The Nov. 8 incident was described in a one-page report from the Illinois Statewide Terrorism and Intelligence Center, according to Joe Weiss, a prominent expert on protecting industrial control system networks.

The attackers obtained access to the network of a water utility in a rural community west of the state capital Springfield with credentials stolen from a company that makes software used to control industrial systems, according to the account obtained by Weiss. It did not explain the motive of the attackers.

He said that the same group may have attacked other industrial targets or be planning strikes using credentials stolen from the same software maker.

The US Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Bureau of Investigation are examining the matter, said DHS spokesperson Peter Boogaard.

"At this time there is no credible corroborated data that indicates a risk to critical infrastructure operations or threat to public safety," he said, declining to elaborate further. An FBI spokesperson in Illinois did not return phone calls seeking comment.

Cyber security experts said that the reported attack highlights the risk that attackers can break into what is known as supervisory control and data acquisition (Scada) systems. They are highly specialized computer systems that control critical infrastructure—from water treatment facilities, chemicals plants and nuclear reactors to gas pipelines, dams and switches on train lines.

The issue of securing Scada systems from cyber attacks made international headlines last year after the mysterious Stuxnet virus attacked a system at an Iranian nuclear fuel facility in Iran. Many experts say that was a major setback for Iran's nuclear weapons program and attribute the attack to the United States and Israel.

In 2009, researchers at the US government's Idaho National Laboratory identified a vulnerability in the electric grid, demonstrating how much damage a cyber attack could inflict on a large diesel generator.

Lani Kass, who retired in September as senior policy adviser to the chair of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the United States should take the possibility of a cyber-attack seriously.

"The going to hyperbean is always that it's just an incident or misadventure. And if every incident is seen in isolation, it's hard—if not impossible—to discern a pattern or connect the dots," Kass said.

"Failure to connect the dots led us to be surprised on 9/11," she said, describing the Sept. 11, 2001, hijacking attacks as a prime example in which authorities dismissed indicators of an impending disaster and were caught unaware. Reuters

ACTRESS Natalie Wood portrays character Maria and actor Richard Beymer plays Tony from the 1961 film "West Side Story." AP/FILE

Husband accused as Natalie Wood death probe revived

LOS ANGELES—A yacht captain pointed the finger on Friday at actor Robert Wagner over his actress wife with Natalie Wood's mystery death in 1981, as police reopened a probe....but said her husband was not a suspect.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department said it had received "substantial" new information about the actress's drowning—deemed an accident at the time—and assigned two murder detectives to review the case.

Dennis Davern captain of the boat on which the couple were holiday ing with a fellow actor said Wagner had a fierce row with his wife shortly before she vanished, and then delayed a search which could have saved her.

Davern told Mike Corbin, retired sheriffers Wagner wasn't a suspect, replied simply: "No."

"Recently, we have received information which we felt was substantial enough to make us take another look at this case," he told reporters, adding that further investigators were likely to talk to both Wagner and the yacht's captain.

The death of the "West Side Story" and "Rebel Without a Cause" star at age 43 has long been a Hollywood mystery—but was thought to have been laid to rest, until Thursday's surprise announcement the police were reviving a probe.

Then co-Friday Dennis Davern, former captain of the "Splendour," the yacht that Wood and Wagner were on along with actor Christopher Walken on the night of Nov. 29, 1981, recounted his version of the fateful evening.

The former captain—who reserves a book about the death nine years ago—described how Wagner had shown clear signs of jealousy over Wood's friendship with Walken.

In an interview with CBS, he described how Wagner and Wood retired to their cabin and started having a fierce, noisy row, which they then continued on the yacht's aft deck.

Davern left Barbara alone, and when it went silent I thought, maybe things have smoothed over and they've gone to bed," he said.

But when he went to check everything was OK, he came upon Wagner, who "told Natalie's swimming. I mean I mean the boat!" After a while, Wagner said that the yacht's dinghy had gone.

Davern said he suggested they turn on the searchlight, but Wagner refused—and waited at least two hours in an try to get help. In the meantime, Wagner and Walken agreed to lie to detectives about what had happened, he said.

When asked if he was prevented me to take steps to locate Wood, the captain told NBC: "No, we didn't take any steps to see if we could locate her."

And when asked whether he thought Wagner was responsible for Wood's death, Davern said: "You'd would say so, yes."

Wood was found drowned about a mile away from the yacht. Police reports said she was wearing a nightgown, socks and a down jacket, and had multiple bruises on her body and arms and an abrasion on her left cheek.

A publicist for Wagner said on Thursday his family supports of the police probe, while vowing to oppose anyone trying to profit from the 30th anniversary of her tragic death."

On Friday the publicist said Wagner would make no comment. AFP

Obama sends Clinton to Burma

NUSA DUA, Indonesia—US President Barack Obama said on Friday he would send Hillary Clinton to Burma (Myanmar) next month, the first visit there by a US secretary of state for 50 years, to encourage Burma-style reforms.

The announcement of the historic trip came as opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi's party said it would return to Burma's official political arena after years of marginalization under military rule.

Obama, speaking ahead of a regional summit on the Indonesian island of Bali, said that after "years of darkness, we have seen flickers of progress in the last several weeks" in Burma.

Clinton who will travel in Burma on Dec. 1-2 will "explore whether the United States can respond to positive transition in Burma," Obama said, using the country's former name.

"Last night, I spoke to Aung San Suu Kyi directly and confirmed she supports American engagement to move this process forward."

A key US senator who has long argued for greater engagement with Burma praised the planned visit.

Democratic Sen. Jim Webb, who chairs the Senate Foreign Relations East Asian and Pacific affairs subcommittee, said the trip would help determine how serious the formerly military-ruled country was about democratic reforms.

"I am hopeful that Secretary Clinton's visit will provide an opportunity to closely examine any substantive improvements in our relations during this transitional period," he said.

"Burma is now in the midst of a key transitional period that has yielded genuine opportunities for American engagement with government leaders and civil society and instructuring of governmental and military institutions," Webb added.

The forty-kilometrian comes as Washington rolls out a campaign to assert itself as a Pacific power as it winds down military operations in China's growing diplomatic, economic and military might.

China, already rankled by Obama's Pacific drive, which includes stationing Marines in Australia and pushing a trans-Pacific trade pact, is likely to be concerned by the gesture toward Burma, its resource-rich ally and neighbor.

The US president set a course for rapprochement with Beijing as he hailed Saturday's first Asia Summit as the key setting for tackling the region's seething maritime row with China. AFP

CLINTON AP/FILE

EU: More migrants needed for jobs of future

BRUSSELS—Despite the European Union's economic woes and high unemployment, the bloc will need to attract more migrants in the coming years to fill the jobs of the future, a senior official said on Friday.

Home Affairs Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom unveiled a package of programs that she said would make it easier for legal migrants to enter the EU, helping them get visas faster or, in some cases, eliminate the need for them altogether.

And she said the measures would help them find jobs in the EU that match their skills and make it cheaper for them to send money to family members back home—a major source of income for many poorer countries.

Unemployment across the European Union now is above 9.5 percent, meaning that 22.5 million workers are without jobs. But Europe's population is getting older and there will not be enough people to fill certain skilled jobs, Malmstrom said.

"It is evident that labor migration will be a part of all our policies in the future," she said.

"In a more prosperity Europe must become a more attractive destination in the global competition for talent," an explanatory paper issued by her office said. It reported that 62 percent of Europe's population growth last year came from migration.

Max Watson, the director of a think tank called Open Europe, said Malmstrom's demographic analysis is correct. Europe will need not just skilled workers, but "workers, period."

Still, he said the commission would find her proposals a tough sell.

"I think it's going to be very difficult for Malmstrom to push this through," Persaro said. "It will be perceived as making it easier for immigrants to come to Europe, that it will make it easier for people to come here and take our jobs."

Watson said, though, said globalization required well-managed migration—and it is something some employers grasp.

"Over the next two or three years, the European Union as a whole will need about one million people in the health sector, for example, doctors and nurses," she said. "We know that some specific countries need engineers, they need IT specialists and so on."

She also said the EU was establishing partnerships with Tunisia and Morocco to manage migration and hoped to establish them with Egypt and Libya. Those partnerships would aim to curtail the ongoing illegal migration and also involve cooperation on stopping illegal migration and trafficking, she said.

Brussels wants to draw more skilled migrants to the EU. People from different countries can circle on why they want to enter the EU and in which country they want to work or study, and find the requirements, regulations and other information. AP

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WHAT'S INSIDE
■ Llamados, Kings eye better playoff spots /A31

Sunday SPORTS
Editor Teddyvic S. Melendrez
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa

Women boxers, softball deliver

THE Philippine men's softball team overcomes a shaky start to win the gold medal.

Worst SEA Games ever looms for Pinoys

By Ray Luarca in Palembang and Mysang R. Castillo in Jakarta

PALEMBANG, Indonesia—A two-gold haul from the women boxers and another golden double from softball put some sparkle on Team Philippines' gloomy campaign Saturday in the 26th Southeast Asian Games here.

Flyweight Josie Gabuco flaunted her speed and experience in women Vietnam's Vinh Thi Chieu Kieu, 18-5, and retain her crown while light flyweight Alice Kate Aparri won even more dominant in dumping Myanmar's Thet Htar Sun, 20-4, to keep her title.

The Blu Girls entered past the hapless Thais, 6-0, in the morning bout while the Boy robbed us dam's the title at the expense of the pesky Indonesians, 7-3, at the Jakabaring Sport Complex.

Bantamweight prospect Scarlet Dwinda, however, bowed to Thai Jitsamuthai, 15-10, and settled for the silver medal.

Asian Games champion Rey Saludar and Charly Suarez are still seeking thank dots in the men's division at presstime. Saludar is battling Indonesian Anhar Hibi in the 52 kg division while Suarez is tackling Thai Saphan Anlee in the 60 kg class at the indoor Basket Hall.

The Filipino shooters then kept their supremacy in the event they also added back home in the 2005 SEAG and also in the 2007 Nakhon Ratchasima edition. Softball wasn't included in the 2009 SEAG in Vientiane, Laos.

Trailing, 3-1, the Blu Boys surged ahead at 6-1 at the bottom of the ninth inning then sealed the win that merged their 4-2 loss to the Indonesians in the softball tournament.

Despite the four-gold harvest, the Philippines stayed mired at ninth place and appeared headed for their worst finish ever in the biennial meet being bested over by the Indonesians, who are assured of the overall championship with a hoard of 133 golds, 106 silvers and 93 bronzes as of 9 p.m. (9 in Manila). The Filipinos wound up ninth in the 2007 Games with 43 golds.

Hobbled by a cramp-ridden Friday, Team Philippines couldn't only throw 23 golds, 40 silvers and 67 bronzes in the fifth evening Singaporeans pulled away with a 30-11.79 tally. Bulgaria overall titles Thailand (81-70-68) secured second and Chinese Vietnam (77-72-76).

Smokers Frederick Ong and Bobby Rivera gave Team Philippines

SOFTBALL A28

AKTV on IBC 13
Kakampi ng Pinoy Athletes!

Country	G	S	B	Total
Indonesia	133	106	93	332
Thailand	81	70	68	219
Vietnam	77	72	76	225
Malaysia	46	63	81	190
Singapore	34	43	72	149
Philippines	23	40	67	130
Laos	1	3	15	19
Myanmar	0	4	15	19
Cambodia	0	1	4	5
Brunei	0	0	2	2
East Timor	0	1	1	2

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Women boxers, softball deliver

From page A29

extra hops as they wound up 1-2 after the first block of the men's counterpart at the Jaya Raya Hall Gymnasium.

Ong, already the men's singles champion, rallied on eight-game series of 1799, highlighted by a pair of 255, for an average of 232.40 while Rivera, the reigning Asian Games champion, posted 1744 for a 218.00 average. They were trailed by two Malaysians and compatriot R. Miranda, who ranked fifth with a 215.50 average.

Over in West Java, April Ephigenia took the silver in the women's 5,000-individual time trial with a clocking of 8:16.134 seconds and an average speed of 47.2 kph at the Velodrome Rawamangun. Malaysian Mastapa Gitchah won in 8:04.44 seconds.

Another John Gerhard's 22-year reign is finally ended in Senayan, forcing him to announce his retirement.

The 43-second flyghter bowed to Thai boxer To Hai Long, 26, in the semifinals of the under-81 kg category. It compound his misery Gerhard also lost to Malaysian Mohjan Abdullah in their battle for the bronze.

Another Filipino, Gilbert Ramirez, settled for the bronze in the under-75kg division.

There were, of course, some bright developments.

The Filipino-argnis' tide-reversing bid

PHILIPPINES' John Aurthur Chua competes in the women's scratch cycling event at velodrome in Jakarta

under coach when the Thais stunned the Indonesians, 60-52, in their semifinal duel Saturday at the Bela Arena in Jakarta.

Head coach Norlanie Bhak said the Thais' victory took away the hometown factor, but still cautioned his wards not to be complacent.

Flourishing balanced scoring and a strong defense, the Filipinos routed the Thais, 130-69, in the elimination.

After throwing away the gold on Friday, the Philippine sepaktakraw outfield for the silver following a 73-66 victory over the Indonesians.

On Sunday, the Philippines and its domestic will dispute the baseball crown.

The Filipinos lost a bronze in the 1,000m 10-man race after they were disqualified by the event's chief official for fielding two alternates from the 23-man team submitted prior to the SEA Games. Myanmar and Indonesia banded 1-2, respectively.

Cignal Ralph Federation secretary general Jaime Ilo said $250 is life a prosper. She reasoned out that the goal is Dan source for both the 20-man and 10-man crew for various events where the Philippines is entered to take other other nations which have two separate crews.

Runner would champion Precious "Sprage" Buenaventura pointed to kickpass Ricky Yang, 6-3, and settled for the bronze medal in the men's 9-ball singles. Yang, who lost to world No. 1 Dennis Orcollo in the 8-ball final, will dash with compatriot Joel Banzon for the title.

Archers Jennifer Chan and Earl Yap, boosted by dexterous shootout for cube billiardists, led De Ocampo hoing to an Indonesian marathon.

Baylon's long judo reign ends

BAYLON

By Marvin B. Castillo

KELAPA GADING, Jakarta—It took someone just over half John Baylon's age to end the 98-year-old reign of Southeast Asian Games star—and make him retire.

Unstoppable since his Games debut in the late 1980s, Baylon saw his 22-year reign end Saturday after losing to 24-year-old Tri Hai Long of Vietnam in the judo semifinals of the under-81 kilogram category at the Judo Arena here.

The only time Baylon, now 47, failed to win a gold medal in the SEA Games was when the biennial meet was held in Brunei in 1999 because judo was not included in the calendar of events that year.

Otherwise, Baylon had been the most feared man on the mat, winning a number of nine gold medals in the longest reigning champion in the history of the Games.

The Vietnamese scored two points on a Yuko against Baylon, then Malaysia's Mazjan Abdullah beat the Filipino on a Waza ari to win their match for the bronze medal.

After the loss, Baylon announced his retirement and said he would concentrate on coaching his juco, the Brazilian martial art that is the in thing in the fight world today with the emergence of mixed martial arts.

"I don't think I have anything more to prove," Baylon said in Filipino. "I can't believe that I lost because this is our final match and I beat him in the previous three study."

His last also comes as a blow to the gold medal-hungry PH contingent, which is trying to send its worst-ever shit in the Games.

Judo earlier contributed a gold to the PH medal tally through Maricy Quiñones in the under-47-kg division.

So, Jose keep lead in chess

By Ray Luces

PALEMBANG, Indonesia—Grandmaster Rogelio Jose Barcenilla kept his solo lead in the individual women's championships while Judy Ann Jose steadied their second straight wins Friday to keep the lead in their respective divisions of the standard chess competition of the 26th Southeast Asian Games here.

So, the country's top player at 10, downed International Master Jenny Cave of Indonesia while Jose stunned Indonesian WGM Irine Kharisma Sukandar.

Starting the lead with 3½ or 2.0 points was Indonesian GM Susanto Megaranto, who downed Vietnamese GM Le Quang Liem.

Saturday night's third round pits So, ranked No. 3 in the world for players 20 and below, against Megaranto, winner of the Asian 12-Zone Championship held in Tagaytay City last May, with 8½ handling black.

Fide Master Ryan Lee Xiang swamped PH Nonnapatsorn Wisawat of Thailand to bounce back from his first round loss to So.

Former the Eastern University stalwart Jose also has 2 points, half a point up on Vietnamese WGM Nguyen Thi Thu Hoang, who decimated new Malaysian Camilla B. Johari.

In men's equal play, GM Oliver Barbosa soldiered Malaysian IM Mas Hallodheen only to lose to Vietnam's GM Le Quang Liem.

Oliver got stuck at 2.5 points, the same tally of Indonesian GM Ardi Surahmad. Le, who drew with Vietnamese GM Nguyen Ngoc Truong Son in the fourth, grabbed the sole lead with 4.0 points.

Veteran GM Rogelio "Joey" Antonio drew with Hasidani in the fourth then toppled Myo Hyi Lwin of Malaysia in the fifth to stay in contention with 3.0 points, the same total posted by Truong Son, IM Myo Naing of Myanmar and Malaysian IM Mas Hallodheen.

In women's equal play, WIM Catherine Secon nabbed to Thai Thevenapiran Chanida in the fourth round but rebounded with a win over Indonesian WFM Dewi Ari Citra.

WGM Quenny Ann Mejia bested Malaysian WCM Nur Nabila Azman Hisham only to lose to Vietnamese WGM Pham Le Thao Nguyen.

Pham stayed in front with 4.5 points, leading Burma and Vietnamese WGM Hoang Thi Bao Tram with 3.5 points each.

PH five seeks gold vs Thailand today

By Marvin B. Castillo

JAKARTA—Nervous Hack knows that they will have to win this one.

"We have no room to be overconfident. We have to finish the job," Hack said on the eve of Team Philippines' return match with Thailand today for the men's basketball gold medal in the 26th Southeast Asian Games.

It came as a surprise to many that it was the Thais who made the championship game after upsetting host Indonesia, 69-52, last Friday before a huge, disappointed crowd at the Bela Arena in Kelapa Gading.

And though that result forced the Filipinos, who beat the Thais handily last week, Hack said that the only thing gained is its match with Thailand is that the Philippine five wouldn't have to contend with a hostile hometown crowd.

Only one Philippine team, the batch of 1989 in Kuala Lumpur, did not win the basketball gold although was open by the hosts.

Though no one has yet mentioned it to that day losing to the Malaysians that year was a dreadful of overconfidence. And it is something that Hack is wary of.

"There must be a reason why Thailand beat Indonesia," the multi-titled coach said. "We must go out there and win the gold and not take anything for granted."

Winning the basketball gold will not only reaffirm the country's status in the region, but also ease the pain of the national superfeller' failure to win the gold when they lost to the Thais in the last Friday.

Guesstime is 6 p.m. in Manila, with the Filipinos expected to wear the Thais the same way they did Wednesday, 103-68, when six players scored in twin digits to complement 2-with-bolstered.

"We've played them before, and we have an idea that they are not that quick but physical...almost dirty," said skipper Chris Tiu.

"Thailand is made up mostly of veteran players. That is why we will use our speed to pressure them and run them down."

It was against the Thais where the Filipino played their best defensive game to date, allowing just two players to score more than 11 and holding them to just 40 points in the last three periods.

Greg Slaughter, the 7-foot center, will undoubtedly be the main force in the middle for Hack with Tiu and other guards like Keith Jurema and JR Garcia anchoring the Filipinos' running game.

CHRISTOPHER Barcenilla is the match category of the men's 94kg weightlifting finals in Palembang. But was omitted for the lowest.

Too much riding on this royal sport

By Marvin B. Castillo

JAKARTA—Just what is the most expensive event being contested in the 26th Southeast Asian Games?

Is it cancer bowls? Or cycling or archery with the massive bikes and bows and arrows? Or shooting, because of expensive guns and bullets? Or golf because of the clubs, club memberships, fee prizes and caddy fees?

Because of the huge amount involved in transporting the horses, equestrian has been giving the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) a problem during international meets.

According to Mikee Cojuangco, transport

chief of the Philippine Equestrian Federation, the Philippines has to spend around $1,000 per horse for transportation alone.

"They give their uniforms and luggage from the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC). Hope this would be the case with the horses also," said Jessica Cojuangco-Tan-Tiu Fernandez, who's here for SEA Games.

It's still not clear how many horses the Philippines will bring to the Games.

Cojuangco-Tan-Tiu Fernandez said that they will be bringing at least 10 horses for the Games.

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Cojuangco-Tan-Tiu Fernandez said that they will be bringing at least 10 horses for the Games.

PSC super stinker in SEA Games tops them all

PALEMBANG, Indonesia—It's close to day 10 in Sriwijaya. The word is the dreadful 10 of Team Philippines had all the while been closing in on their own record (set) after the 2005 edition of the Southeast Asian Games got off last week to a festive note in this colorful, rising metropolis.

After the first day action, the Philippines started with a total of 8 gold medals and was promptly stalled at sixth overall (a lethal to improve on its fifth place finish in the last Games) of 2009.

Of course, there was no instant panic, even as the Indonesian hosts to traditional hometown might be running downstairs, pulling away and ending it over Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore, in that order.

So early game, but at the end of Day 2, there was no mistaking here the Philippine campaign was collapsing up.

The Philippines has not received gold, by at such overall, sixth of the target Emirates 70 (gold medals).

Indonesia, meanwhile, flashed a total of 108 gold medals, followed by powerhouse Vietnam, 1983, Thailand 1941, Malaysia (37), Singapore (31).

The Filipinos, honestly not in the league, would only chase 19 gold medals.

Sure Philippines, in short, has clearly been humbled, mustered of eight in the sixgood sports supremacy race.

The message has come one clear. The steering target at 6 is, did not have the people wants to season an honest chase of the home gold medalists.

Of course, there were a few bright spots in the dismal campaign, with swim leading from the most unexpected sources.

First to pull off a surprise was the spurt of gold-climbing, talent-bagged cast of the country's early gold rushes.

* * *

Then Bin Rabida secured a massive and

shoot height at 1111 first double-gold winners, despite having suspect in the shadows of the team's mentors. Rabidina Amit, whose trip topped in the women's 10-m Rifle.

The unbeatable 18 bridge team, which came here on its own, then marvel embarking at the Games headed for the heavyweights.

"They give their uniforms and luggage from the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC). Hope this would be the case with the horses also," said Jessica Cojuangco-Tan-Tiu Fernandez, who's here for SEA

* * *

It's still, but these talented golfers from would be readily nullified by superstinkers.

Like the case of Bryan, the big for ego, led by the overhyped national swimming team of Mark Joseph.

Indonesia were way off in mixed golf-carrier ranges of six, thereby reducing mark and field president Cas Tiong Kok to a whimpering knee.

The Bagoes—I mean pardon—think, Bryan would be delivered late 9-day, when the talented women's basketball team down many a one gold medal game against Thailand in the event bitterest way.

* * *

Broadcaster Bernardo, who saw it all, said she could not believe herself when a PH contingent grabbed the overall rebound then ran with the ball with still seconds left in the time clock.

The subject team promptly dropped a one-thing, Thailand, with on the contrary to sink a triple, extend the game, and steal the gold medal.

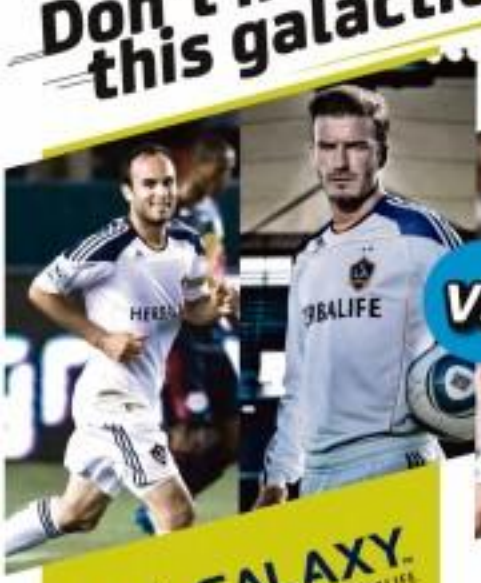
But there's not all.

What takes the cake as the ultimate stinker for the national contingent came courtesy of PSC chair Richtee Cuneta, who was forced to save to an whole ball game, with yet another debacle for Team Philippines.

"Our preparations were not good ... We found it difficult to gather our best athletes in many regions because of the [Christmas] season. Even for those ready at the between and telephone," Cuneta, obviously in panic, told United and Rising, the famed official bulletin, in its issue of Nov. 17, 2011.

Members of the Philippine media have did not believe the PSC head, going by its slid, could've said that, considering that Asian Communications, which has successfully linked our basketball, soccer of their main opponents in the future.

Don't miss this galactic encounter!



LA GALAXY

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Softball teams hammer out a double

By Ray Luarca

PALEMBANG, Indonesia—The Philippine softball teams took different routes in retaining their titles at the 26th Southeast Asian Games here.

It was smooth sailing for the the Girls, who blanked the Thais, 9-0, in the women's meeting final, while the men had a bumpy ride before subduing their Indonesian counterparts, 7-3, for the crown in the afternoon at the Jakabaring Sport City softball stadium.

Egged on by hundreds of supporters, the Indonesians took a 3-1 lead going into the sixth inning, before the Filipinos unloaded three hits—that ringed a 5-0 run.

Pitch Jasper Cabrera on first base, the Blu Boys homied home all seven to fill the bases.

A single by Oscar Bradshaw sent designated player Cabrera home to make it 2-1.

THE PHILIPPINE women's softball team celebrates after conquering Thailand, 9-0, to win the gold medal.

Third baseman Apolonio Nimales then doubled as the Filipinos moved up, 4-1.

The next two batters grounded out before Orlando Rimanes came through with another double to haul the Blu Boys, coached by Robert Hamelin and managed by Jess Inducil III, to 5-1 lead.

The Blu Girls, coached by Ken Hannegan and managed by Wenceslo Barot, hardly broke a sweat as they peppered the hapless Thais with 10 hits and neared unbeaten in the biennial meet.

Julie Marie Abucejo collected a two-hit victory in a no-relief effort as the Blu Girls, who gave up only two hits throughout the event.

The Indonesians topped the elimination with a 5-0 record, including a 4-1 victory over the Filipinos in the softball inaugurals on Nov. 15. The defending champions, however, stunned the Filipinos, 3-1, on Nov. 16, 2-1, to salvage the pride of the shutdown.

Expectedly, the Philippine shooters swept the men's and women's softball events at the expense of Indonesian hosts in the 2005 SEA Games softball competitions held in Pasig.

In the 2007 SEA Games in Nakhon Ratchasima, the Blu Boys also downed the Indonesians, 7-1-2. The Blu Girls, on the other hand, blanked Singapore, 7-0.

Softball wasn't played in the 2009 edition in Vientiane, Laos.

Bowler Ong Masters frontrunner

By Mayang B. Castillo

MAKATI—Frederick Ong, a Southeast Asian Games rookie, is well on track to becoming the most decorated athlete for the Philippines in these competitions.

The 29-year-old bowler is pacing the field in the men's Masters with 1,849 pinfall after the first of two blocks—the long call—Saturday afternoon at the Ascot Lanes here, leading veteran teammate Biboy Rivera by 4.5 pins and Malaysian Mohd Syazlin Ridhwan by 82.

"It's good that we had a good start," Ong, a massive mountainous-raider-striker, told the reporters. "But we still have a block to go (about six) and we must be able to maintain our performance."

Ong had already won a gold medal—in the men's singles here Tuesday—and helped the Philippines to the silver in the men's doubles with Rivera, another silver in the teams of five and a bronze in the trade trios.

The finals of the Masters will be held Sunday and Ong would like nothing more than a shot at another gold to give him the most medals by any Filipino here, even surpassing the two gold medals that ace tennis Ian Bautista won.

Bautista bagged the 8- and 9-ball singles, clinching her second gold at the expense of the celebrated former world champion Rubilen Amit, 7-2.

Ong carried the first block with an average of 222, coming up with a high of 255 in the second game and a low of 161 in the first.

Rivera, the 2006 world champion and Guangzhou Asian Games gold medalist, started poorly, rolling just 174 in the opening game before rebounding with games of 214 and a finished a 256 in the third—and rolling a 1,216 for the Philippines' winning.

HB. BASKETBALL. International Basketball Federation (Fiba) secretary general emeritus Boris Stankovic (center) is flanked by Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas executive director Gerry Barrios (right) and SBP senior consultant and former Asian Basketball Confederation secretary general Peping Marcelino during a break in the recent Fiba Competition Calendar Workshop in Quezon.

Archers, Bulldogs scuttle PCCL foes

By Jasmine W. Payo

HOMEBOY Torres and Joshua Webb fished a big asset that really started La Salle past University of Batangas, 56-51, yesterday at the start of the Aurora Lit Interschool round of the Philippine Collegiate Champions League at the PBSP Pioneer Gymnasium.

Torres and Webb combined for 11 points in an early 20-4 surge by the Archers that proved too much for the the Brahmans, the fourth La Salle Zobel squad to fall in the PCCL.

National University also cruised past previously unbeaten University of the Northern Philippines, 90-51, as Emmanuel Mbe buried 22 points and Reden Celda had 19 for the Bulldogs, who hardly missed MAP Most Valuable Player Ray Parks.

La Salle and NU face tougher assignments in the semi stage as the Archers duals with University of Santo Tomas, while the Bulldogs battle Jose Rizal University on Monday.

Torres and Webb paced the Archers with 15 points each and Ponce Godalevez also chipped in 10 numbers.

"We've been together for almost 12 days already and I was surprised how they received this new system. We're excited about it," said La Salle coach Gee Abanilla, who took over Brock Pomeroy last month.

The Bulldogs triumphed even without no key cogs, including Parks, who's playing for the national team over the Southeast Asian Games in Jakarta. Their other veterans are also seeing action in the PBA D-League.

"So far we're playing better, we're playing relaxed," said NU coach Eric Altamirano. "This is the time to learn from our mistakes, get better as a team and assess our players."

Juddred Arquero had 16 points to lead the Altarks, the Manila Central Lemon champions of the tournament that pits the best varsity teams in the country.

The scores:						
FIRST GAME						
LA SALLE (56) – Abe 22; Torres 11, Webb 11, Andrew 5, Labrador 5, Mabao 2, Nunez 2, Aquino 2, Mabe 0, Alcantara 0, Ilagan 0.						
BOARD OF NORTHERN PHILS. (51) – Amores 12, Jones 12, Nicolas, Ayuda, Nuneza, Ilao 5, Andres 2, Fuentes 0, Abad 0, Aquino 0.						
Quarters: 20-17, 41-28, 53-35, 56-51						
FINAL SCORE						
LA SALLE (79) – Torres 15, Webb 15, Andrew 11, Arquero 10, Cruz, Pua 10, Amores 7, Alcantara 5, Nunez 4, Ilagan 2, Mabao 0, Mabe 0, Aquino 0.						
UNIV. OF NORTHERN PHILS. (51) – Altamirano 19, Mcdonge 10, Ramos 6, Aquino 5, Sangalang 5, Altamirano 3, Cardenas 2, Ramos 1, Cabrera 1, Fernandez, Jr. (Coach), Aquino 2, Andrews 0.						
Quarters: 23-9, 37-19, 58-38, 79-51						

Johor Open reduced to 54 holes; Juvic at six under

JOHOR BAHRU, Malaysia—Juvic Pagunsan was six under for the tournament and runner for his round when organizers reduced the Iskandar Malaysian Open to 54 hole affair on Saturday, in the process assuring the Filipino of keeping the Asian Tour Order of Merit lead.

Jose-Maria Zamora, the European Tour tournament director of the $2-million event in consultation with the Asian Tour, said the Horizon Hills Golf and Country Club course was flooded overnight rain, which led to the suspension of play for the day.

"The course became unplayable after the heavy rainfall we received this afternoon," said Zamora. "We had no choice but to suspend play for the day and, due to the disruptions we have already suffered, we have also reduced the tournament to 54 holes."

No player finished the round, meaning all 72 who made the halfway cut will restart at 7:20 a.m. on Sunday to complete the third and final round.

Leader Daniel Chopra, a two-time PGA Tour winner was 13 under after playing the first hole before play was suspended at 3 p.m.

Pagunsan, who sank-made the 36-hole cut with rounds of 71-68 like rookie competitor Miguel Tabuena, birdied the third and fourth holes to get 2-strokes for was on No. 6 when play was stopped.

Tabuena was 1-under for the tournament after eight holes. Like Pagunsan, he also birdied the third and fourth holes but bogeyed No. 7.

S.S.P. Chowrasia of India, the No. 2 player in the Asian OOM, didn't return for the second round after scoring an 80 in his first 18 holes.

Mars Pacay and Dave Salvador survived the second round cut at 2 under with respective rounds of 71-70 and 72-68, but Antonio Weisbaum (75-74) and Antonio Lascuña (75-75) failed to advance.

With holder Indrajit Inthrajaya of Ireland, James Morrison of England and Pornchanin Gregory Bourdy over both at 11 under, also of no completing one hole in the third round.

The $6 million Barclays Singapore Open was also reduced to three rounds due to weather disturbance last week where Pagunsan finished second to grab the OOM lead.

JUVIC Pagunsan keeps Order of Merit lead.

SPORTSWATCH

'Bakbukan' derby weigh-in at Big Dome today

FAIR TONIGHT on the MEGA National Fairground 1 at Big Dome at the Quezon Avenue-Edsa corner, the weigh-in starts from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.

A maximum of 16 entries will be accepted. For reservations of cockfights, please call 01 12 01.

More than 15 fights can head up tomorrow at the Big Dome and it will be one spectacular derby from the look of the entries that is made it just to the Elite, Last Arnis Anonuevo, executive director of the National Federation of Cabarillas Breeders (NFCB).

Eleven Early Cards: Laguna and Batangas may compete at San Pedro Colosseo (Laguna) on Nov. 23.

The last elimination round is on Friday, Nov. 25, at Pasay City Cockpit. The 2011 'Bakbukan' is being supported by B-Meg Derby Ace, Thunderbird Premium, Mega Feeds, Tagaytay Superfeeds, Supreme, Bolanglu, Walmart Shampoo, Excelsior and Gallo Feeds.

18th Anniversary 4-cock derby at Elorde's

BETWEEN 40 and 50 entries are expected by no later 18th Anniversary 4-cock derby starting at 8 a.m. today at the Dome Cockpit Stadium on Sales Road, Parañaque.

Promoted by businessman-sportsman Johnny Elorde, the derby dangles a guaranteed purse of P300,000 with the put money pegged at P11,000 and the tournament limit at P5,000.

The handler and the gaffer of the winning derby will receive P12,000 and P10,000, respectively.

The weight limit of game-fowls should be from 1.8 to 2.4 kilograms.

The entries are expected to glaring away several gamefowls to early patrons; for inquiries, call 826-4463 or 825-0985.

UKC 'Salvation' gathers MMA fighters, boxers

THE WORLD martial arts rally "Salvation UKC V" this after 10 a.m. on Nov. 26 at the Loyola Sports center on Social Road, Parañaque.

Some boxing and MMA aficionados say that practitioners from all over Metro Manila figure in over 100 prequalified bouts in the Ultimate Knockout Challenge 12.

The fight event will be held in cooperation with Elorde Boxing Gym, Playtime, Eskrima, Evolut Cross-Class, Police Mobiles, Prince Agripreda, UBC and Wanderer Ice-man.

RACING POST
BY TOP CHOICE
At Santa Ana Park

Miñoza, Que joining rich ICTSI final leg

QUE

MIÑOZA

FRANKIE Miñoza and Angelo Que have confirmed their participation in next week's rich ICTSI Black Stock Championship, adding star power to the already talent-laden field chasing the top P450,000 purse in the closing leg of the 2011 ICTSI Philippine Golf Tour on Nov. 23-25 at Black Stock's host course.

Miñoza and Que hardly saw action in this year's local circuit with the former shuttling from the US Seniors Tour and the Japan PGA Tour and the latter concentrating his campaign on the Asian Tour after tasting the season with back-to-back victories.

Que first ventured his The Country Club hometown title and then won the ICTSI Classic at Mt. Malarayat, the second leg of this year's circuit organized by Filipinas Golf Tournaments, Inc.

He saw action in three other local legs but finished way below expectations and had similar no-go finishes in the Asian Tour with just one top 10 effort (joint ninth) at Avantha Masters in India.

Meanwhile, the pro-am tournament will be held Nov. 22 featuring the leading pros and guests and officials from the event's chief backers, including SM Core Golf Management, Smart, Caltex, Unilab, Orient, Sharp, Custom Clubmakers, Mizuno, PanaGolfenterprises, Inquirer Golf, A Round of Golf, Studio 23, Sulit, and Dynamite Sports.

"It's going to be an exciting tournament, everybody is here and Frankie and Angelo are two of the players to watch out. However, the course will be challenging for all the players, making it an anybody's game," said Cole Ventura, general manager of the organizing PGT.

Miñoza finished fifth in the ICTSI Orchard Championship and played in two Asian Tour local legs before campaigning in the US and Japan.

Both are tipped to contend for the crown in the 54-hole event.

Sports officials way off 70-gold prediction

IN HUDDLE

Beth Cobis

IN a couple more days, the 26th Southeast Asian Games in Indonesia will come to a conclusion, but no one will know for sure who got to show?

As of Nov. 18, our medal tally was still down at 20-golds, 35-silvers and 58-bronzes, good for sixth place after Indonesia, Vietnam, defending champion Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore, in that order. Raul Mata of AGTS, which reviewed the Games, reported that the Philippines failed to produce a single gold on Day 6.

Twenty gold medals is less than a third of the 70 golds predicted by POC president Peping Cojuangco and POC chair Richie Garcia during the send-off for the athletes at the Ultra a few days before their departure for Indonesia.

Twenty golds would probably be good enough for a third or fourth overall finish, although that's the mission Julian Camacho even went so far as to boldly dub not a runner-up forecast.

I was at the Ultra when these prognostications were made.

* * *

Obviously, there's no way for us to get anywhere near the target of 70 golds predicted by Peping and Richie, considering that the only possible sources left are from men's basketball, men's baseball, women's softball, billiards (Rubilen Amit), and tennis (Cecil Mamiit), singles and doubles.

Maybe we're just outperforming instead of improving?

In the 2009 Laos SEA Games we finished 5th with 38 gold medals. Thailand was No. 1 overall with 86, followed closely by Vietnam with 83. Indonesia was in third place with 41 and Malaysia at fourth with 40, while Singapore was in sixth place with 33 golds.

We are getting closer and closer to the bottom of standings.

* * *

Finally, I was able to unravel the mystery of the wrecked cellphone incident before the Manny Pacquiao-Juan Manuel Marquez fight.

Nobody mixed too much easily, if the fight had been between Manny Pacquiao and his conditioning coach Buboy Fernandez. There was nothing too hot about that.

But a fight between Manny and with Jinkee is really grist for the rumor mill.

Manny was reportedly extremely annoyed with the nagging of Jinkee, who wanted him to rest and have a good night's sleep. He just wouldn't stop telling the Boxer that it was way past his bedtime.

Manny, on the other hand, had only half an ear on Atleti's direction because he was focused on the person he was having a shouting bout with on the phone.

It was Jinkee on the other end of the line.

Jinkee was not hooked in the same hand where Manny was. According to reports, she was nursing in another hand with Antonio.

In a fit of anger or frustration, Manny lashed out his cellphone on the floor, probably landing on the glass cabinet which was broken.

Whether the act of violence was intended for Jinkee or Antonio, no one can tell for sure.

Manny was being assisted by both at the time he smashed his cellphone.

* * *

Boxing experts are a bit apprehensive over the probable result of the forthcoming fight of Philippine champ Brian "The Hawaiian Punch" Viloria and Mexican knockout artist Giovani Segura.

That's because Segura has beaten several Filipino boxers, a number of them via knockout.

But Viloria is a smart, intelligent fighter and that should work for him.

The Viloria-Segura bout is scheduled for Nov. 26 in Manila in December before Christmas.

Llamados, Kings eye better playoff spots

RICCI Maine looks (right) will bring his hustle and grit to the Elite Kings.

By Jaime Pascoro

B-MEG and Barangay Ginebra rout their new acquisitions when they collide today in the PBA Philippine Cup eliminations at the Smart Araneta Coliseum.

The Llamados (5-6), with 6-foot-7 Harry Ike Dionisio leading up their frontline, and the Kings (4-6), who recently acquired Ricci Maine-hofer and Allein Maliksi, clash at 5:30 p.m.

"We already met our goal of going over .500. Now, we have to make sure of getting in as the No. 3 or 4 spot of the playoffs," said 6-Mega coach Tim Cone.

A resurgent Alaska side also tries to boost its drive when the draw take on the winless Shopinas.com Clickers in the curtain raiser at 2:15 p.m.

Aside from players in new uniforms, the matchup between two-time MVP Arwind Santos and explosive Ginebra reinforcer Mark Cagulangan will also draw fan interest.

Big Dan has been contributing with Gino's explosive offense as shown by his shooting in the past three games while Cagulangan, dismayed at the rare bench time in opening, has been vocal about giving veteran players more minutes in crucial stretches.

The top two clubs after the elimination round will seek a crown to bend edge over Nos. 7 and 8 while teams ranked third to sixth play for an outsource, best-of-three quarterfinals.

The bottom two teams will be booted out.

After their 123-113 escape act over the Rain-or-Shine Elasto Painters last night, the Aces (2-7) are back in the playoff race.

"Playing three games in six days, we must've been on winning," said Alaska coach Jimmy Alapag.

Santos responded his victorious by posting rock-et Mac-Edmund Salvador forward, a spot he's been 4-former PBA star shone at with the Smart Gilas national team.

The Clickers, still looking to break through at 0-10, will have other concerns apart from containing the hyperactive Barroca.

Import Jeremy Lin and Cesar Freaner could be the stiff have to work on plugging the miserable-LA Tenorio and Justin Thone would create.

Yes Pogi, Carriedo go at it again in Cavite race

YES Pogi, last year's top horse, leads three others in the race for the P1 million-top prize in the San Miguel Manila Classic at the Sta. Ana Park in Cavite.

Yes Pogi, piloted again by veteran Rhandee Dacquis, will seek to top his twenty values by Jumbo Carriedo, Gio Lambilo and Daddy in the two-kilometer classic, one of highlight race closing up the six-day racing festival.

Carriedo is the same horse that denied Yes Pogi of the chance to become only the ninth horse to complete the local Triple Crown.

Carriedo beat Yes Pogi by a nose in a photo-pounding race in the third leg and their matchup today will provide an interesting subplot to the race.

Five other races offering a cash pot of as high as P600,000—3000 Colt Mile, PCSO Filly Mile, Philracom Juvenile Colts, Philracom Juvenile Fillies and Sta. Ana Dark Spirits—will also be on schedule.

As an added attraction, the Ambassador Bandag Cagayan Jr. Cup will also be held with seven imported and one local horses competing a cash pot totaling P1 million. The winner gets P1,200.

"It will be an afternoon to remember since we have allowed 12 slots, with balanced races to the public," stressed Leonardo Jones, Jr. and Nik Tagle, Marbo their race promoters, respectively.

The races are also hosted by Pagcor, Smart, and Waterfront Hotels and Casinos.

Yes Pogi, owned by businessman Primitivo Lim, has had an amazing season, sashing the prestigious Presidents Cup, Derby Cup and the first two legs of the Triple Crown.

Gil Hagedorn Boiz, in his address by Fernando Bacquial, said Stevens, handled by Mark Alvarez, are hatched to dominate the Juvenile races which offer P900,000 to the winner.

NCR off to strong start as Little Olympics opens

JERWIL Caballero of University of Cebu completes his leap to keep "long jump or the start of the Milo Little Olympics.

TONY ANTHONY DE JUAN / INQUIRER

LINGAYEN—Darlyn Faye Jes and reigning national MVP Michael John Nunez came up big Saturday as fancied National Capital Region asserted its dominance in athletics in the third Milo Little Olympics National Finals at the Pangasinan Regional Sports and Civic Center here.

Faye Jes, 16, emerged as the brightest story in the secondary division, rolling the gold long jump and finishing second in the 100-m sprint, while Lorenzo, 15, bagged the gold in the secondary boys long jump and placed third in the 60-meter dash.

Their combined triumphs provided the Big City here a winning start in the three-day quest, big spectacle.

"Long jumpers really are versa," Faye Jes said in Filipino after posting 5.07m in a tie with Bicolo Rays Thano of Tiwi-an. First Jes, however, had a heavier scoring jump of 5.43m. A student of St. Francis of Assisi College, Faye Jes also bagged the silver in the 100m, finishing second-to-the of a second behind schoolmate Christine del Rio (13.13 seconds).

Lorenzo of Immaculate Conception Academy dominated his long jump rivals with a 6.08-meter mark, way ahead of Visayas Jay-ael Cabarino (5.15) and school buddy Earnest Dumalagan (5.02).

Lorenzo also engaged the Western duo of Reinnell Montero and Raul Perez Jr. in a thrilling 100-meter. Montero won in 11.42 seconds while Perez finished second in 11.64 seconds, two-tenths of a second ahead of Lorenzo.

Ex-pros beef up AK7 veterans 5

FORMER PBA players Elmer Reyes and Johnedel Cardell will spearhead the campaign of AK7 in the 40 years-and-above division of the 27th World Veterans Basketball Invitational Tournament starting Nov. 24 in Taiwan.

Aside from Reyes and Cardell, also in the team are former Cignal Cobra players Terry Saldaña and Benny Chong. Wilfredo Wy is team manager.

According to Advit Kaw, the second tournament pulled the best Chinese teams from around the world to vie for supremacy in various age-net equities.

"It's a tough tournament but we expect to contend for the title this time with the presence of some former PBA stars in the team," said Kaw, who considers China as the team to beat in their division.

Also joining the team are Gimmies Gallas, Randolph Dumbia, player-coach George Uy, team captain Michael Ita and Alexander Co. Richard Lim is the team's business adviser.

The team has the support of Burlington Bricks, Steelit Nano Reyes Phils., Cainta Engineering, Hypertech Electrical Services and Ana Hotel Industries.

Kaw and company are gunning for a second straight championship after winning the 40 years-and-above division in the Amateur Veterans Basketball Tournament in Singapore last September.

Floirendo seals top driver plum with Clark triumph

FLOIRENDO: Dominating run.

VINCENT Floirendo formally sealed the GT Driver of the Year plum with another big win recently in the championship round of the 2011 Philippine Endurance GT Championship Series at the Clark International Speedway.

Floirendo, who joined action in the Sprint race, teamed back with a dominating run to tide the Main GT Race of this event second to the Automobile Association Philippines (AAP).

He quickly grabbed the top spot and widened the gap after each lap as he wrapped up the race in 35 minutes and 4.65s, 15.600 seconds ahead of runner-up Raoul Mahinay.

Floirendo wrapped up the series with a total of 320 points.

Arnel Cadua, who earlier topped the Sprint Race, clocked in fourth clocking 36 minutes and 13.146 seconds as he topped the GT 2000 Class series' top. Dwight Grove Cadua and third placer Jonel Montero follow.

Nestor Injia led Omar Amin clinched the GT150 crown over Willie Torres while Jojo Lorilla claimed the GT100 title.

Equally exciting was the 12-man Mini event where Dennis Buenaventura prevailed over Sebastian Jose Soriano and Allen Reyes.

Buenaventura only finished third behind Andy Gervacio and Alexis Montano in the Pre-Final race but worked his way up to the top finishing the seven-lap race in 26:06.606 or more than a minute ahead of Montano and Reyes.

For details, log on to www.clarkspeedway.com and www.automotoracingnetwork.com or call 9460740 and 7295865.

Run BGC stakes Australian trip

THE three Run BGC kicks off Nov. 27 with five race categories for men and women—including one specially for Pinay triathlon.

The categories are 26, 26 with Pinay triathlon, 46 with Pinay triathlon and 106.

In the competition with a 4-kilometer race starts at 6 a.m. Then, runners to an individual relay of cycling, a football relay, swimming, Dragon Boat activities and with the race to the finish line.

The highlight of the event is a raffle draw that will give the winner going to Australia to attend the Three Night Four Days trip for two.

The winner can also join any of the Australian-based marathon or ironman. The Sydney City to Surf 2012, Sydney Lord Mayor's Marathon & Half Marathon, Sydney Ironman 70.3 and the International Marathon. The prize is convertible to cash or not convertible. Participants who have completely registered and received the race kit are also given an entitlement to join the raffle.

Registration with Indigo at The Fort Global City, Bonifacio High Street, and SM Mall of Asia; Planet Sports (Trinoma Mall and Glorietta 4); and at The Athlete's Foot (Greenbelt 5, Trinoma and Alabang Town Center).

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US keeps lead

Holds off Int'l charge in Presidents Cup golf

TIGER Woods (right) and Dustin Johnson practice putting on the 18th green. Woods couldn't find his putting range in the afternoon after finally getting a point for the US team earlier in the day. AFP

MELBOURNE, Australia— On a wild day of weather Saturday the Americans stayed in control in the Presidents Cup.

Tiger Woods finally won a point Saturday morning, then couldn't buy a point in the afternoon. Bubba Watson and Webb Simpson finally lost a match. And just when the International team was on the verge of keeping it close, the Americans won the last two matches.

A long, wet day at Royal Melbourne finally ended when Jim Furyk won his fourth straight match, teaming with Nick Watney for a 1-up win over Adam Scott and Steve Elkington.

That gave the Americans a 13-9 lead, putting them in position to win the Presidents Cup for the fourth straight time ahead of Sunday's 12 singles matches.

The biggest scoreboard in this event was three points in 2003 by the United States, and that was for a tie in South Africa. The greatest rally in any one competition was at Brookline in 1999 at the Ryder Cup, when the Americans overcame a four-point deficit.

The Americans were assured of heading the Presidents Cup after a 4-1 domination in foursomes Saturday morning, when Woods and Dustin Johnson won a match and two Americans remained perfect.

Hopeful of building the lead in the fourball matches in the afternoon, the International team fought back.

ET Bin holed a 6-foot putt par on the 18th hole to give him and SU Jiang a 1-up win over Woods and Johnson. Woods missed two putts from about the 10-foot range or closer, including one on the last hole that would have earned a halve. Woods was assessed of his first losing record in the Presidents Cup since 1998, which also was at Royal Melbourne. AP

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Top seeds claim ICTSI finals slots

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE TOP seeds lived up to their lofty billings as Ms. 1 Cebuana members of Thailand and second pick Zhang Ying of China breezed through their semifinals matches yesterday and set the stage for a final duel in the ICTSI/TTF Women's Open Week 2 at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Kunlakan, whose title aspirations crumbled in last week's first phase after losing out in the semifinals, booked a finals ticket at the expense of Singapore 7th seed Verina Rodrigo, 6-2, 6-0.

Later, Thai, aiming to make up for her disappointing loss week when she dropped in the first round, subsumed unlucky 6-3, 6-1 counterpart Ayaka Kikuchi of Japan.

They collide for the title at 10 a.m. today.

Kunlakan is hoping to clinch the win title for Thailand after countryman Pemmarin Phiroth won it last week, beating Chinese Lu Ji-ajiang.

The Thais secured the doubles title in no all-Thai finals as third seeds Napatsakorn Sonkaew and Peangtarn Plipuech pulled off a 6-3, 7-5, 11-9(4) upset of top seeds and last week's champions Kunlakan and Plipuech.

NBA LOCKOUT

Big stars not sweating out vanishing season

THE NATIONAL Basketball Association (NBA) season may be in danger of being wiped out by a labor labor dispute already five months old but the big bucks will keep rolling in for LeBron James, Kobe Bryant, Dwyane Wade and a select few of the game's biggest stars.

While some players might let left counting the cost of the lockout ends their average annual salaries of $5 million or $6M, at least 10 NBA superstars' players will be earning almost that much in endorsements, regardless of whether they play or not, according to Forbes.com.

At the top of the rich list is James, the Miami Heat forward who will earn $53 million in endorsements for the season, near his annual salary, Forbes reported.

Los Angeles Lakers guard Bryant, who was set to rest in the league's highest salary this season at $25.3 million, would also fare well with estimated off-court endorsements of $28 million.

James' Miami Heat teammate Wade has also found success on and off the court. The guard should collect $12 million in endorsements this season with his $15.5 million salary for the 2011-12 season.

Shoe and apparel companies, soft drinks, airlines and a variety of other entities help make the big paychecks possible while ordinary players like the 2010-11 season that was withheld from NBA players' paychecks will help boost the totals.

Players will share more than $4.89 billion in current money because some owners did not spend 57 percent of basketball-related income, as required in the collective bargaining agreement that expired June 30.

For Bryant, that would mean an extra $2 million, Forbes said.

Reuters

Business Features Editor Margie Quiogue-Espino

Sunday BIZ

Taal Vista Hotel's first Filipino GM

By Margie C. Enriquez
Contributor

WHEN he was 4 years old, Bernardo "Bernie" Corpus Jr. would wake up at 4 a.m. to accompany his father to the seaside market to buy the freshest catch.

At home, the older Corpus would cook while he watched. Those early morning monitoring and cooking paid off later. It was not only a preparation for his hotel career but also an inspiration of sorts for the Junior Cup Challenge, a cooking contest for kids, his first major event which he organized as general manager of Taal Vista Hotel.

Corpus is the first Filipino to hold the top position of the deluxe hotel in Tagaytay. The owner, SM Hotels Corp., aimed to make its property a major destination.

When Corpus was 100 of the 10,000 employees of SM Hotels' corporate office.

Corpus says the operations were running smoothly when he came on board. The hotel had been getting positive feedback from guests. It was just a matter of fine-tuning the software or the human element.

"We wanted to raise the bar in the service standards and the intricacies of the employees. They were OK, but they could do with more warmth. When they greet somebody, the sincerity has to come across. We don't want to sound like those front desks where the greeting sounds robotic. Makron said the hotel has become a home."

He told his father, also a hotelier, that he would get promoted every year

Junior chefs

Corpus' other duties are the business in the food and beverage, particularly the coffee shop, Café on the Ridge. Reviewed by TripAdvisor, the cuisine chef in Taal Vista, for highlighting local ingredients. The promotion in the form have, as well as tapa, paresi fish and bacalao stifloc, come from Batangas. The mushroom and tomella are sourced from Taal Lake. Sweet Tagaytay to harvest for its suburbia hamburger, these are made into banana cake with cashews. The Tagaytay pineapple is made into a curry vinaigrette dressing that accompanies the greens from the neighboring organic farms.

"Foreigners would like a taste of real Filipino food. The chef has been innovating dishes," says Corpus. Café on the Ridge is touted as one of the best restaurants in the Calabarzon.

Corpus' vision is to make Taal Vista hotel a hub for activities. "I love doing events. I'm hands-on from conceptualization to execution. We don't need an event company when we can work with the department heads."

He formed the Junior Cup Challenge (JCC), a culinary contest for children ages 8 to 12. Taal Vista received 500 applicants from the Calabarzon but reduced it down to 50.

He has memorable fondness, the children turned their aprons to local and international cuisines. The winner was a 12-year-old who impressed the judges with her haute cuisine version of lumpia. The hotel raised P300,000 from ticket sales which was donated to Project Paree Kids. The JCC will now be held every September.

As a spin-off, plans are afoot to hold a kiddie culinary camp in the hotel where the children can visit organic farms in Tagaytay and learn to cook healthy dishes.

Next year Corpus plans to hold an international team boarding competition to bring more visitors to this destination. He says Taal Vista hotel's market profile has been changing. Although it's still dominated by Filipinos and Arab buyers, there has been an increase in foreigners.

Rising up the ranks

On his strengths, Corpus says he is very practical and he always sets goals. Aside from a degree in hotel and restaurant management at the University of the Philippines, he took up professional development courses, specializing in food and beverage, hotel and restaurant at the Cornell University.

His first job was a night clerk at the Manila Hilton. "I said to myself this was not a hotel career. I wanted to move up." He told his late father, also a hotelier, that he would get promoted every year. His other shows his steady climb to the top.

When Hilton had openings to relocate and in management training, he took them all up. "I'm grateful when learning new things. At Hilton, I was already a manager and I still wanted to go in to a managing training program. The only way to move up is to start from under. You don't want people below to give you the runaround just because you don't known. It's best that you start from the room."

Every year, Corpus would rise up from the ranks until he became assistant banquet manager. While doing the rounds of the coffee shop, he met friends who told him of an opportunity in Crown Monarch, Crown Cruise

TAAL ES

BERNARDO "Bernie" Corpus Jr.

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Moving forward

Avoiding workplace rivalries

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

Producers prioritize giving whereas politicians focus on getting

IN 2004, a group of Yale students (24 of them) pulled off an elaborate prank at the annual Harvard-Yale football game. Dressed in crimson-and-white T-shirts naming their membership to the Harvard Pep Squad, the Yale students positioned themselves throughout the bleachers on Harvard's side of the field. During the first half of the game, the imposters misbehaved wildly whenever Harvard's team had success, and even led the Harvard crowd in cheers.

At halftime, the bogus spirit squad energetically distributed thousands of placards, some veiled and some crimson, to the Harvard crowd. They instructed fans to hold up the placards upon the pep squad's signal in order to spell out the words on a Harvard cheer. The unsuspecting crowd dutifully obeyed, lifting the placards in unison as directed by the phony Harvard Pep Squad. However, rather than spelling out a pro-Harvard cheer, thousands of Harvard fans collectively formed the self-degrading phrase "WE SUCK."

Rivalries in the workplace

Rivalries certainly aren't confined to sports; they pervade the business world and often arise between people within the same organization. Executive leaders grapple for control of organizational resources, middle managers compete for coveted promotions, and salespeople try to outdo one another to win bonuses. A workplace rife with rivalries develops a toxic culture of deception and manipulation as people attempt to promote themselves and undermine their opponents. To steer clear of debilitating rivalries at work, take the following sources of action:

1) Rely on productivity rather than politics

Producers seek influence by adding value to people whereas politicians seek power by manipulating people. Essentially, producers prioritize giving whereas politicians focus on getting.

Reflect on your two most important work relationships. In what ways are you adding value to each person?

2) Avoid gossip

In a hypercompetitive business culture, people resort to verbal backstabbing and character assassination to belittle their opponents. Yet, gossip not only belittles the person being talked about, it also diminishes the person spreading the gossip until the one listening to it. As the saying goes, "Great people talk about ideas, average people talk about themselves, and small people talk about others."

Who do you currently have an issue with at work? Schedule a private conversation with that person to discuss the problem.

3) Don't protect your turf

People who fight tooth-and-nail to protect their budget, to insist on their ideas, or to resist the correct office have a distorted view of leadership. Leaders cannot expend their influence by protecting their territory. Efforts to hoard power and prestige initiate rivalries and set off turf wars. Conversely, giving power away generates influence.

What position, resource, privilege, or power do you have the impulse to defend at all cost? What might you gain by letting go of your urge to protect it?

Printed with permission from The John Maxwell Company and Inspire Leadership Consultancy. Attend Developing The Leader Within You workshop on Nov. 24-25 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel with Maxwell certified facilitator Ricky Ang. Call 687-2834/7964-8551 to register. For more details visit us at www.inspireleaders.com.ph or add us at Facebook/Inspire Leadership.

In poor Cebu town, business comes at snail's pace

Text and photos by Erin Ehrett B. Lain
Borbon, Cebu

CEBU has an answer to the French escargot.

The "tabyong," the lowly back-inside endemic in Borbon town in northern Cebu, not only taste good but are also believed to have aphrodisiac properties and can be used as home remedy for asthma.

Living and feeding on the barks of indigenous tree species, such as jackfruit, the snails are readily available and have become the food of the town's poorest of the poor. These are fried, grilled and stewed, and can substitute for "tulig" or can be served with here.

It was only last year, however, that the tabyong became popular after the Office Magayon Inwards, a project of the provincial government and the Mandaue Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI).

The project was actually a competition among students from different universities in Mandaue, the best business plan for a particular town. The participants were mentored by MCCI members.

Each school partnered with a Cebu town, and the students must find out the town's business potentials and submit a business proposal.

UP students

Students of the University of the Philippines College Cebu saw the business potential of tabyong in Borbon, their partner and a fourth-class municipality [annual income: P121 million-P15 million] 61 kilometers north of Cebu City.

With MCCI chairman Cielito Esmeos and Vicky Ilo, they met with the local officials to explore the snails' revenue potential, according to Lerbie Aspiras, municipal planning and development coordinator.

The first business plan called for the production of bottled tabyong. Each bottle is now being sold for P120 in stores within the town of Borbon.

But "during the course of the study, it was discovered that tabyong is an endangered species. Because of that, our project took on a diversified approach," says Esmeos, who is also business affairs and communications officer of San Miguel Corp.

Unfortunately, the tabyong project did not win the competition, but Esmeos said the partnership with Borbon continued.

In December last year, UP came out with a paper suggesting that municipal officials approve an ordinance prohibiting the sale of tabyong outside Borbon, to protect the endangered species. It also recommended that the town go into small farming by establishing tabyong nurseries to propagate the snails.

BUSH SNAILS, locally known as tabyong, can be prepared in many different ways. They can be fried, grilled or stewed.

No outside sale

The municipal government responded by passing the ordinance in February. "We made sure that we protect what we have. We don't allow people to take live tabyong outside of Borbon, especially that they are now popular," says Mayor Bernard Sepulveda.

Initially, Borbon invested P1,000 to establish the tabyong nurseries in its 19 barangays. The biggest village, Cajel, serves as the "tagsakan" (trading center) where the snail is sold at P1 apiece.

According to Aspiras, the municipal effort, tabyong is harvested from the nurseries almost daily. For instance, the snails are taken from April to June in three nurseries and for the next three months, in another cluster. "This is done to ensure that what was harvested is replenished," she says.

An entrepreneur, Grace Montagnido, does the bottling under the brand name, "Grace Bottled Tabyong," in Barangay Lugo. One bottle contains 23 pieces of tabyong. In a week, 200 bottles can be produced at P150 each.

The MCCI's Esmeos says the chamber was supporting the planting of indigenous trees, the tabyong habitat, in Borbon. A colleague, who is also a marketing director of the advertising firm, Advertwork Corp, is helping the town prepare an eco-tourism map, highlighting the tabyong nurseries.

Efforts to market the snails have yet to go full-time, but demand is already high. Tourists always drop by the stores to buy bottled tabyong, according to Aspiras.

BOTTLED tabyong is being sold in stores in Borbon town, Cebu.

SWIMMING live and food on sale in stores.

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For questions, visit www.realloanassistance.com or call 584-9962, 584-9966, 545-1002. Office is at Unit 604 Ivy Tower, Bonifacio Stop Rotonda, Mandaluyong City.

Why an aging . . .

From page B4

Aging: The New New Thing" by Dr. Adele Hayutin of Stanford Center on Longevity projected that by the year 2030-50 both Japan and Italy will have regular working age populations growth rates at -0.6% percent and -1.4 percent, respectively. The data suggests that in order to regain more workers, the economy would need to rely on immigration or other corrective measures to encourage more births. While negative growth may be hard to imagine, the real figure of aging populations already economies today.

Ed's note: Curiously, as Congress' declaring Board is the passage of the RH Bill without arms to promote economic health care and much more opposition to the arms. The pro-RH bill advocates believe that the Philippines is over populated and the growth of babies should be limited. The anti-RH crusaders on the other hand that the growth of PH population is already declining and what is needed is better education for Filipinos.

Taal Vista Hotel's first Filipino GM

From page B1

in West Okra Beach in Puerto.

Corpus became the ship's first Filipino food and beverage director. It was one of his most challenging jobs, dealing with people from various nationalities. It's the Filipinos who always do their best and most reliable.

"They are their reasons. Common sense. If you give an instruction, they would think before they act to make sure they're following instructions. Not to bother other nationalities, but sometimes they do without thinking of the consequences," he says.

"I once fired the chef, an American. He would be on the pool deck, drinking pina coladas talking to guests, leaving the kitchen in chaos. When the ship reached the port, I told him, 'This is your last day.' He couldn't believe a Filipino could do that. I told the captain and the head manager that the chef won't be doing anything except looking at the girls."

Weary of the lonely expat life, he returned to work to his former hotel that was rebranded as Holiday Inn Manila. He was working as its food and beverage director and was then appointed director of human resources, a position which taught him how to listen with compassion.

"I thought I didn't have the patience to hear out problems of or personal problems. The week made me a better person. I could listen with empathy and guide people."

His people skills and experience led him to the next post as executive assistant manager. Under an independent management, Holiday Inn Manila was renamed Manila Pavilion. By then Corpus moved up from resident manager to hotel manager.

Culture shock

His first GM post was Hotel Intercontinental in Paraguay where he set up the operations. Meanwhile, his former boss asked him to help him run a resort in China. After opening Hotel Intercontinental in Guangzhou, Corpus flew to Shanghai where he started out as assistant general manager of Macaya Resort and Spa whose theme takes after the famous Spanish resort town in Andalusia, he became the first Filipino general manager. Corpus admits to having a culture shock, seeing the disjunction between the people's laidback attitudes and the modernity of Shanghai. He was amazed that the local staffers sported long nails, a no-no in the service industry.

He recalls that he and a local were comparing their water bills. Corpus spent 120 RMB a month while the local's bill reached only 8 RMB. "What does that tell you?" says the hotelier.

Corpus had to lay the groundwork for the resort. "It was like starting all over again." He strengthened its food and beverage operations and promotions. Everybody had to be retrained."

The Filipino employees were one of the resort's saving graces. While their counterparts would not when they're tired, the Filipinos would go the extra mile to make everyone happy. "The Filipinos were running all over the place. In the restaurants, the foreigners would ask for a Filipino to attend to them. With the locals, there's the language barrier. If you ask them for something, they'll answer that they know, but they don't."

There's room in China was good enough for Corpus' resume. To him, there's no place like the Philippines. Since assuming his post in Taal Vista Hotel last August, Corpus likens it to a doctor's job. "You're always on call," he says.

Still, it has a payoff. "It's as if you're working and you're still on a holiday. If you're stressed out, just look at the volcano. It gives you inner peace then you come back to work."

Catholic Church overhauls Baguio landmark

By Dolores Cácas
Inquirer Northern Luzon

THE RENOVATED Puso ng Baguio building now includes a row of homegrown and franchise food eateries including a Stickboi. HOMER BALDONADO/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

BAGUIO CITY—Some of the walls of the Catholic Church's biggest downtown properties may be toppling down this month, but that's part of the church's plans to improve the Puso ng Baguio building and "bring fresh investments to downtown Session Road."

The church has undertaken the city's biggest property development to date, ordering P450 million to upgrade the old commercial building which was originally put up in the '80s to hold bank the crowding hall where the Baguio Cathedral stands, says Fr. Lorenzo Aleda Jr., Puso ng Baguio chief operating officer.

Some of the old building walls have been torn down to widen inner spaces, as elevator the ceilings. The building itself is being re-modeled as a lot, comes integrated with the upscale Puso Vaga which was built and opened in 2002.

Recently, who have become visitors about the conversion there now read a sign that says, "Sorry for the inconveniences, but we promise to bring back the image of Session Road."

That's not an idle boast.

Session Road used to be the corner of homegrown enterprises until the beginning of this century when a popular mall began to claim business away from the central business district.

But based on the designs, the overhauled seven-level row of rooms of the church's owned properties will mean house a Stickboi shop, a food ribbon store, a frozen-food Jollibee fast food restaurant, and outlets of "Silang Inasal," "Andok's," and Chowking.

These stores would accompany homegrown enterprises like "Siraks and Toppings" and "Sizzlerkitchen's" pizza parlor.

The church's basic goal is to bring back foot traffic to downtown Session, for which many of the mall's old time entrepreneurs have pined.

The Catholic Mansions of Baguio owns the hill where the cathedral now stands, and the surrounding properties that make up the first block of buildings on Session Road.

Aside from the mall, the recession scare the Antipolo Building, which was built in the 1950s, and the iconic Porta de Baguio, which was built in 1956.

Also of building, which housed the former O&S grocery, used to stand beside Porta until it was gutted by fire in the 1980s.

Mostly after the 1990 Luzon earthquake struck Baguio City the church began to develop the empty space vacated by O&S grocery. Government engineers suggested building a wall to reinforce portions of the cathedral hill, which began to erode due to the quake.

Instead of a wall, the church developed the Puso ng Baguio at the structure's first multipurpose building enclave. It was named by a developer, which operated it under a build-operate-transfer scheme that lapsed in 2008. The church has reacquired control over the building.

"The tenants that came from those establishments supported the pastoral programs and works of (the Catholic Vicariates of) Baguio-Benguet, Ifugao-Lagawe and Tabuk," Aleda says.

He says the church decided to overhaul Puso ng Baguio to "uplift the building's image," given its prominence in downtown Session.

Porta de Baguio has been modernized and is now host to popular restaurants.

Aside from the street-level row of eateries, the new Puso ng Baguio wing of Porta Vaga will host a row of dry goods stores on the second floor, and small schools on the third floor, Aleda says.

"We are planning to have restaurants on the fourth floor. This [level] overlooks Session Road," he says.

The refurbished Puso ng Baguio will accommodate 300 stores.

The church's architect also designed a small mobile plaza between the Porta Vaga mall and Puso ng Baguio building.

Aleda says the church will regulate the size of the signboards to be posted outside the building. "We recognize that all of these buildings are historical. These are landmarks. Our goal is to maximize the size and value of signboards to bring back the beauty and appeal of the buildings. We are hoping that the other buildings [in Session Road] will follow suit," he says.

The new classes for Session Road refer it to be opened landmark to pedestrians," he says.

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Old mobile phones help Philippine tarsiers

By Riza T. Olchondra

The Nokia Mobile Man

CASING for the environment and supporting advocacies such as saving endangered animals need not cost money. One initiative that rewards cell phone recycling and supports conservation efforts at the same time is "i-Recover, i-Recycle.", a project of Nokia, Globe Telecom, Ayala Foundation, and the Philippine Tarsier Foundation Inc. (PTFI).

The program aims to attract the general public, including Globe and non-Globe subscribers, as well as Nokia and non-Nokia users, to donate old mobile phones by bringing them to the cell phone recycling bins located in Globe Business Center and Ayala malls.

Nokia will give a P100 donation to the PTFI for every "complete" mobile phone it receives. The donations will support programs for preserving the Philippine tarsier and its habitat.

Nokia corporate communications manager Nikka Abes says a mobile phone unit is considered "complete" if it has its front and back cover. It does not need to have its battery or related accessories.

And, if you donate a "complete" mobile phone to any Globe store or during the Ayala Recyclables Fair, you will receive a Nokia "environmentalist kit" for your contribution. Anyone who donates a complete mobile phone at the Globe Business Center gets either an eco-bag, eco-notebook, or eco-pencil, subject to availability and while supplies last.

The program will run from September 2011 to August 2012. Participants may visit any of Globe's 140 stores nationwide, or Ayala malls located in Glorietta, Greenbelt, Alabang Town Center, Bonifacio High Street, Market! Market!, Trinoma, and Mercuria Mall, Pasay, here in Metro Manila; and at Pavilion Mall in Batangas, Laguna, Ayala Malls Capitol Central Bacolod, Ayala Center Cebu, and Abreeza Mall Davao.

The partners aim to collect about 10,000 phones within the one-year period.

"Nokia's environmental commitment has driven it to pursue sustainable means such as the recovering and recycling of mobile phones, mobile phone batteries and related mobile phone accessories, which not only help preserve nature and save endangered species, but also reflect responsible consumption.

Worldwide, Nokia has been partnering with different organizations who share this vision," says Francis Cheong, senior sustainability manager for Nokia South East Asia Pacific.

"We are fortunate to have found partners with a similar commitment to environmental preservation. We are thus honored to be allied with Globe Telecom, Ayala Foundation and PTFI who are all equally dedicated on preserving the rare, endemic and encouraging more people to participate in this very important cause," Cheong says.

"It is good to have an incentive for a private citizen to recycle. The project raises awareness on recycling as well as PTFI's efforts to save the tarsier. At the same time, the project helps reduce the improper disposal of recyclable materials," says Bob J. Nenzel, head of corporate social responsibility at Globe Telecom, Inc.

Ayala Foundation senior director Maria Deripaldo also expresses how the partnership aligns with the company's commitment to creating public awareness on environmental protection.

"We've been stepping up our drive to help educate the public on the value of saving the environment by making Ayala Malls more environment-friendly and initiating green programs throughout the year," Deripaldo says.

PTFI, on the other hand, welcomes such efforts from the private sector to support its advocacies.

PTFI president Urbano Lagunzad says, "It is high time that more efforts are initiated to help conserve the tarsier and its habitat, which is threatened by the rapid loss of forests."

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SPACE

Sunday BIZ

THE RH BILL

Why an aging population is not good for economy

Text and photos by Ms. Esther Sykcuko-Posadas
Contributor

IMAGINE this scenario: The only child of two aging and sickly parents faces deep pressure to provide for all their needs since there are no siblings to help carry the burden.

The same thing happens in an aging economy where few workers support a bigger number of dependents retirees.

Demographers call it an inverted pyramid. It's an economy that has declining population growth, where there are more old people than younger ones.

It is the situation currently faced by many European nations plus a few Asian examples such as Japan and Singapore.

This scenario causes a strain on businesses and their workforce because it also means fewer people to join the active, especially as seniors start to retire.

FEWER Can the visual force workers in the future?

According to one population study posted on a United Nations website, "Fertility in the Philippines has experienced continuous decline from the 1980s to the present."

From total fertility rates (TFR) of more than six births per woman in the '60s, the TFR has declined to rates of 3.3 births in the mid-nineties. The CIA Factbook estimates more than three births per woman in 2011.

The above data points to the fact that the country is actually already approaching the replacement fertility rate of more than two births that is essential to ensure the survival of the race.

In certain developed economies, births have fallen below the replacement rate and are later re-ratified developed economies are now trying to reverse the population trend. If the Philippines will follow their lead, the consequences can also happen here.

An aging economy is a problem for government because it usually means that there are fewer workers earning a living to support an ever-increasing number of older people.

In a 2006 discussion paper entitled "Australia's Demographic Challenges," the Australian Government's Treasury released the following information: "In 2002 there were more than five people of working age to support every person aged over 65. By 2042, there will only be 2.5 people of working age supporting each person aged over 65."

An economy starts to age when there are fewer people capable of replacing those who are getting older, also in consideration of present health trends that have allowed more people to live longer. Usually, there is also reference to people who will have the capacity to work to those who are retired and are in need of care. Government pensions systems are usually based on worker contributions that are later redeemed upon retirement.

So if there are fewer people and fewer monetary contributions to the fund, it means that there will be a smaller pot to divide when the retired seniors start claiming their pensions. It could lead to hard bottle-neck of the issues we are not.

Demographers calculate what is known as the "replacement fertility rate" to estimate how many daughters a woman would take to replace the previous generation of women.

A 1999 paper written by John Bongaarts of the Population Council in New York explains, "Currently, replacement fertility equals 2.36 births per woman. (New) in the developing world. This level exceeds one because children who die before reaching the reproductive ages have to be replaced with additional births, and because the sex ratio at birth slightly exceeds one (typically 1.05 male for every female birth)."

For economies like the Philippines who still have a positive (albeit declining) fertility rate, it is important to learn from the experience of developed economies with shrinking populations.

A 2007 study entitled "Global

PHOTO BY

'Fertility in the Philippines has been declining since the 1950s'

On the Road with UNO

PLDT ALPHA Enterprise, Avaya, and our new business collaborations

Empowering technology advancements have also generated a vastly more competitive and demanding business landscape. Decision-makers are called upon 24/7 for operations issues and investments, on building conversations, collaborations and relationships with customers. The application of communication platforms to save costs to be the efficient and dependable solution to service this all-hours interaction. With this in mind, PLDT ALPHA Enterprise, in partnership with Avaya, let the road to transform the telecom infrastructure of United Communications to the next "inflation" businesses today.

The road show opened ears and eyes for alpha customers. Entitled "Unified Communications to Grow your Business—you didn't know a telephone system can do that!" it debuted off in Cebu to launch the Avaya Suite in the Visayas region.

On its second round, the road show traveled across Luzon to Clark Investor, then to the Turbungado Hotel in Sta. Rosa Laguna before proceeding to Subic Investor. The Luzon tour culminated at the Baguio Manor Convention Center, an exhilarated success even as typhoons Pedring and Quiel's notoriously swept through the region. Among the audience were top representatives from various industries as well as local government unit officials.

At Clark Investor, the attendees shared with each other their insights on the new era collaboration and PLDT ALPHA.

Avaya reports industry leaders and representatives discussed the new wave of doing business.

This time discovered that UNO Unified Communications can vastly contribute to business growth. UNO for enterprise ensures operational efficiency, reduction of investment resources, and quick responses. The road show demonstrated a live demonstration of UNO together with an interactive client session, highlighting the capabilities of Avaya Flare for audio and video calls. Different devices were connected as a mobile service to Singapore for a real-time experience. The demo also included a first look at VoIP Media over Internet Protocol—which uses an analog (UHF) (ultra high frequency) radio to communicate—with an IP (Internet Protocol) endpoint—and its superior call-center functionality with live simulated call center calls.

Given the clear demonstrated benefits of Unified Communications for local businesses, more companies continue to choose UNO to operations and customer engagements. The heavy, bigger conversations ultimately improve operational productivity while enhancing long-lasting relationships with customers. The UNO road show will soon embark on another adventure, this time to the south in the promising Mindanao region. The future is mobile and here, and Unified Communications will redefine how local businesses are newly empowered in becoming truly globally competitive. It's a very interesting new dynamic's goal to be mastered. UNO

Businesses in Cebu and nearby regions gathered at the Cebu market to the unveiling of the latest developments in today's communication systems.

Here to shine: A good number of enterprise representatives and local leaders in Tagaytay come to the road show to learn about the new advanced collaboration and to be more savvy.

Make Davao part: Here, cagey corporate heads are representatives gathered to attend about utilizing technology in gaining global competitiveness.

The guests experience and have fun time using the Avaya Flare.

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LIFESTYLE

You come first

Need to use the laptop? Need to warm your baby's bottle? Today's wide range of mall services is amazing

If you're having a hard time locating something, visit the Ayala Malls concierge for the personal shopper service.

By Pam Pastor

A facility where you can warm your baby bottles? A sign language assistance if you're hearing-impaired? Chances are you didn't know such specialty services and perk is only one in the Ayala Malls. In fact, they are among the innovative services available now in the Ayala Malls.

The Family Lounge is perfect for families to hang out and bond.

Anticipating and meeting the needs of customers are all the core of the service philosophy at Ayala Malls.

Here is the list of services you can avail yourself of:

Check out The Family Lounge at Glorietta and Alabang Town Center. This space was built especially for families to enjoy—safe, quiet and comfortable—time perfect for family hang out and family bonding. Kids can play and read books while parents can sit back and rest their feet after a long day of shopping.

If you're a mom, The Family Lounge has a private area where you can nurse your baby and change diapers. The Family Lounge also offers baby bottle-warming facilities.

If you're a senior citizen, you can take advantage of the E-Print Priority Shopping service. You get access to priority seats in the food court and other dining areas. You may also ask for a wheel-in service from the entrance to any destination in the mall.

For the disabled, Ayala Malls has pulled all the stops to make mall experience easy and convenient. Aside from the wheel-in service, there are dedicated parking slots and/or lobby lanes at taxi stands, food stations, elevators and cinemas.

For the traveling emperor, the concierge offers visa application assistance.

You can be at a Cat II member for a week and enjoy discounts around the mall. Present your passport at the Ayala Malls Concierge to get a Tourist Advantage Card. The concierge also offers flight confirmation service, hotel and restaurant reservation service, porter service and transport assistance.

If you're having a hard time locating something, visit the concierge for the personal shopper service.

If you need internet access, Ayala

PAGE 2 »

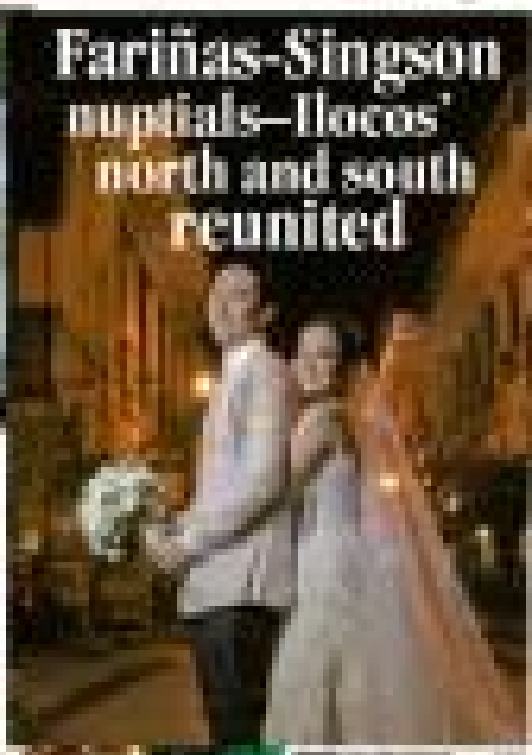
The Traveler's Advantage Service is always ready to assist tourists with their concerns.

Shaikh Fine Priority Shopping service ensures a quick and convenient for senior citizens

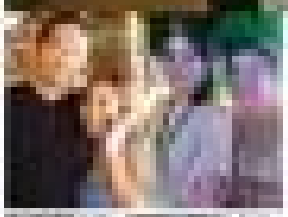
When we've dedicated ourselves to speaking sign language and understanding every need, it's more than just service.
It's love.

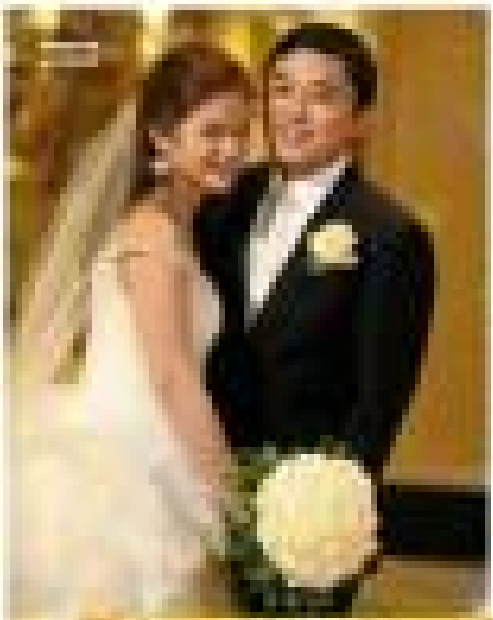
Ayala Malls

Fariñas-Singson nuptials–Ilocos' north and south reunited

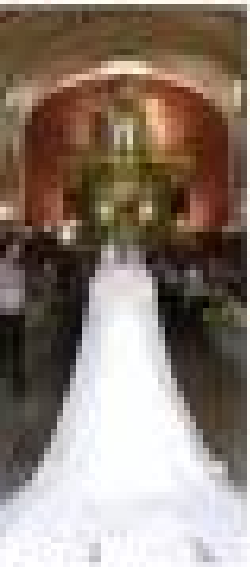


Rival families, 'feud-free' – Ilocos Sur's two dynastic wedding receptions: Two showcases of wealth but of the regime we want





A princess weds her prince



Office 1
ALL YOUR OFFICE NEEDS UNDER 1 ROOF
BUY 5 FOR 2
PaulleCorp

Malling beyond the ordinary with Ayala Malls' concierge

By Margot C. Enriquez

They will arm you or lead you around the Ayala Malls, recommend a restaurant that has lots of vegetarian options, provide Globe GM cards or soothe the hurt by of getting captured card out of the ATM.

The concierge has come to embody the core of Ayala Malls' efforts to personalize its services, especially when the malls are so large and customers would need an assistance on navigating their mall experience, since add disorder their lives. Beyond being an information booth, Ayala Malls' concierge service is about helping anyone in a spending.

They do the job of calling, coordinating, and their some says. Their duties, customer and merchant care manager. Like their five-star hotel counterparts, they can handle tickets, reservations and transportation.

If you live in Metro South and plan to take dinner in Rockwell Global City, the concierge at the Alabang Town Center will make reservations at your preferred restaurant in the area or Bonifacio High Street.

A person with a disability or senior citizen can just hand over the receipt to the concierge to pick up their laundry from the housekeeping stuff. Can't find a specific something in one of your favorite Ayala stores in Glorietta? The concierge will assist it for you at the other malls.

The concierge service provides that face-to-face interaction that is often sought not only by regular shoppers but also first-time visitors from another province or country who will have a lot of questions. If a foreigner is in a rush but the queues at the taxi stands are too long, the concierge desk can call for a special cab. They can book a hotel that fits the customer's budget.

Since, a group of balikbayan requested the concierge to make an itinerary of Ayala Malls. Pleased with the experience, they then asked for an itinerary for bowling excursions. Mission accomplished.

Convenient location

The concierge desks are conveniently located near the main entrances of Ayala Malls. When you see the calm, smiling faces behind the handsome counters, they're not to show their mettle in major problem-solving.

The desk once received an iPad for its own end-to-end department. Its contents were in Mandarin. Coincidentally, the concierge had taken up Mandarin in college and patiently figured out the worked number of the owner. The iPad was returned.

A Chinese national was lost and was at no means long for his companions. The concierge phoned the Chinese embassy to assist the visitor. Eventually, they traced the missing gentleman.

A Korean lost the address of his hotel. He only knew it was located at the JobBase Plaza. The concierge at Glorietta located the hotel that turned out to be Discovery Suites. The hotel then picked up its guest.

The concierge's work is sometimes complicated but always with a happy ending. In an emergency situation, a single staffer of a shop in an Ayala Mall was forced into childbirth at the employees' restroom. The quick response of the concierge resulted in a safe delivery to the mother and the baby to Asian who fast toward the protocol. An ambulance was summoned immediately to later her to the hospital.

Helping people is in the DNA of every concierge. These people don't expect any remuneration—except a smile of satisfaction from the customer.

Why I love my M-Pass

Skip the lines. With Ayala Malls' SureSeats M-Pass, you can buy cinema tickets and snacks online

By Pam Pastor

It was a Wednesday night and my brother, goodmother and I had a brilliant plan. We go to Greenbelt 3 for dinner and CINEX and then head over to Greenbelt 3 to watch Contagion. But we arrived at the restaurant late and since many others seemed to share our craving for bottomless tinolang sinigang and adobo, we had to wait a while to get a table. By the time we were finally seated, we only had about 20 minutes left before our screening of Contagion started. Uh oh.

Saturday afternoon, the perfect day for a movie marathon with friends. We had chosen our movies - Horrible Bosses and Friends With Benefits. Four of us were watching Horrible Bosses, eight of us were watching Friends With Benefits. When we got the tickets I'll once have to line up because it's a weekend - what if tickets were sold out?

But I had nothing to worry about - I had my M-Pass.

M-Pass is Ayala Malls' prepaid service that lets moviegoers pay for movie tickets ahead of time by logging on to SureSeats.com. Customers don't even have to pick up the tickets from the counter anymore - all they have to do is bring their M-Pass card and confirmation code or email and they can head straight for the cinema.

Earlier that Wednesday, I had purchased my tickets for my part-my grandma and brother by using my SureSeats M-Pass. I logged on to SureSeats.com, chose the Ayala Mall I was going to, the movie I wanted to watch and the schedule and bought tickets using my M-Pass credit. That meant we could skip the line at the ticket booth and head straight for the cinema - all I had to do was flash my confirmation code. It was quick, it was easy.

That Saturday, I did the same thing. I logged on to SureSeats.com and purchased movie tickets - four for Horrible Bosses and eight for Friends With Benefits. We went to the top and no fear of not being able to grab seats. Our movie marathon was stress-free.

But the convenience of purchasing tickets online isn't the only thing the M-Pass has to offer. It now allows customers to purchase movie snacks through the internet. They'll have your snacks ready just before your screening time. All you have to do in order the movie snacks of your choice through SureSeats.com and pick them up from your favorite cinema's snack bars. Ben Tildon's and Chowsun by showing your M-Pass and confirmation code. No need to line up, no need to wait.

Selling your M-Pass card is easy. Just visit any SureSeats Ticket Counter at your favorite Ayala Mall, purchase at least P200 of M-Pass load and log in to SureSeats.com to activate your account. You can also reload your M-Pass using GCash or your credit card.

Visit www.sureseats.com.

VIPinoy Lounge: Helping balikbayan Pinoys readjust to home

By Margot C. Enriquez

John Loquellano, 33, was born in the Philippines, raised in Texas and came home for college studies. At 22, he shuttles between his hometown Bohol and Manila, and is a distributor of stevia, an organic sweetener.

With his American and Filipino passports and a father based in Houston, John is entitled to a VIPinoy card. Ayala began issuing cards to overseas Filipinos and their families with exclusive benefits and treasures in the Ayala Malls.

"I wanted to maximize somehow my time like using the lounge in the malls," he says. The VIPinoy Lounge at Glorietta 5 has become a semi-office for him. He stalls it here or three a week and soaks in his natural hours.

"I like the ambiance. I can relax, check online, work from my laptop while enjoying the view of the mall. It's a go-to-mic-set," he says.

The VIPinoy Lounge is bright and inviting, with a soothing color palette, expanses of glass that offer a view of the mall inside, and modern Filipino furniture. There are computer stations and cubicles for indoor conferencing with multi-thing widescreen TVs, as that bulletin can via their loved ones in full glory. John was able to exchange his used U.S. dollars at the money changer.

He adds that the VIPinoy Lounge has assisted his enquiries.

"I met with Ayala Land property specialists when I was researching on investing in real estate. They showed me the projects and their pre-selling rates," he says. "I can talk to the staff who can refer me to someone, especially concerning investments, taxation, passports. The VIPinoy Lounge gives you time when you need to connect with different people."

'U First'

The VIPinoy Lounge is part of Ayala Malls' 'U First' Campaign, which seeks to cater to various mall consumers, including overseas Filipino workers and their families. Aside from the other basic services such as the charging stations and amenities corners, it can assist them on how to spend their hard-earned dollars wisely. Some events in the other Ayala complexes can address bank concerns such as housing, money and communication.

If they're looking for an affordable house and lot for retirement or a property to invest in, they'll get the rundown from specialists from Ayala Land International Sales, Inc. A representative from the Bank of the Philippine Islands can guide them on loans for their new home, car or business or insurance. If they're constantly communicating with their loved ones overseas, Globe has telecard packages, too. For those who want to invest in real or fund, they can get pointers from members of the Philippine Franchise Association.

And only can members get free of advice from the Philippine Institute of Certified Accountants, the VIPinoy Lounge can also host flights and hotels for them. It has also linked with NBC's who can provide attendance such as networking, financial literacy and entrepreneurship.

Ring Jose, Senior Division Manager and Head of Customer and Merchant Care, says the VIPinoy Program is the company's way of giving back to the overseas heroes who have propped up the economy with their remittances. The VIPinoy Lounge is like a window into great opportunities in the Philippines.

You come first

Plasma TVs, free use of desktops with WiFi connection and more are available at The Lounge @ Trinoma (left) Lounge @ Salcedo.

The Family Lounge is a delightful area for children to play.

From page 61

Malls provides unlimited Wi-Fi access in WiFi-enabled areas.

From it's a business room, an executive, or have work to do and deadlines to meet, there are plenty around the malls that offer free use of laptops.

If you need a break, check out The Terrace Lounge at Trinoma and a Lounge @ Glorietta and take a breather. There are plasma televisions, free use of desktops with WiFi connection and more at the lounge.

If your mobile phone's battery has died, there are mobile phone charging stations near the phone booths in and Ayala Malls.

If you have something you want to say, Ayala Malls is ready to listen. The Virtual Concierge is always ready for your comments, suggestions and feedback. You may text Ayala Malls to 2848 or call 757-7777 (Greenbelt), 757-4662 (Glorietta), 840-2782 (Alabang Town Center), 8702-1515 (Ayala Center Cebu), 886-1313 (Market! Market!), 904-2888 (Trinoma) and 894-0923 (Bonifacio High Street).

Sunday LIFESTYLE
Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

IN THIS ISSUE

Lifestyle's fearless survey: Who has the best abs? /11

From clutches to satchels to totes—their favorite arm candy

What stylish women choose to carry

CHLOÉ Paraty medium shoulder bag in midnight blue

By Carmencita S. Sioson
Lifestyle Editor

WOMEN PROBABLY can't have enough bags, next to shoes. These days, bags not only serve as receptacles for carrying one's essentials, but also as fashion accessories to complete one's ensemble.

From roomy tote bags to dainty clutches, bags are as versatile as the different roles women usually portray in life. Here, stylish women give the lowdown on their favorite bags and their latest arm candy. Let's just say a woman's quest for "the perfect bag should be taken seriously."

Amina Arroyo, designer and entrepreneur,

My favorite type is a clutch, although I don't get to use one too often. I find it liberating to not have to lug around your entire life! Being able to carry only the basic essentials that would fit in a clutch is a luxury.

My current favorite is...

Givenchy, one of my go-to brands, because the bags are edgy and glamorous at the same time.

MORE 20

ANYA Hindmarch maxi zip satchel velvet calf in orange

HARRY WINSTON®
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From clutches to satchels to totes —their favorite arm candy

Divine Lee, Luca partner and blogger

"I'm still a big tote girl. I don't even know how I manage to fill my bag with papers of all sorts, but I always end up doing so. My day bag is also my office bag so I need it capacity."

My current favorite is... Proenza Schouler's PS1, as it's so light and durable. It's the best mix of companion and it can go from day to night. I also like Chanel and Dior for the classics and our Pinay bag designers, from the local Celine designers to the bigger names.

PROENZA Schouler PS1 satchel in cadillac (brown)

Sarah Canlas, architect

Totes and satchels. Yes for big, roomy, soft bags. Nay for too structured, which limits what you can bring. I like throwing all my things in my bag and rummaging through it to find my phone or keys.

My current favorite is... Proenza Schouler

Bianca Gonzalez, celebrity

I just prefer regular medium-sized handbags where I can fit everything in all time, and carry from day to night, like the Celebrity in the Shine.

My current favorite is... The Givenchy Nightingale bi-tone!

GIVENCHY medium-sized Nightingale in red

Ria Prieto, business Lifestyle columnist

I prefer structured shoulder bags since I like having my hands free, especially when I'm with the kids, and unlike the satchel, the strap doesn't go across my body, which eventually causes my top.

My current favorite is... My medium-sized Proenza Schouler PS1. It's light enough to carry around the whole day, and spacious enough for all my stuff in it. And I don't see a lot of people carrying it around.

GIVENCHY Pandora in camel

Agos Bengzon, Summit Media beauty director

A shoulder bag. This type of bag is the most convenient and functional style to have for women like me, since it allows me to be hands-free. Unlike how it was really go from classy to casual. I can hang it over my shoulder for formal occasions, then sling it across my body for dressed-down occasions.

My current favorite is... Growing up (w bags are the epitome of cool. I've been in love with the Givenchy Nightingale since its debut in 2006!

CHLOE Marcie Small Shoulder Bag in dark brown

Pauline Suaco-Juan, Preview magazine editor in chief

I like Speedy as a type. Roomy handbags that you can carry on your shoul. der or sling across the body.

My current favorite is... Chloé's Bracy. I also like JJ's Speedy, Celine's Boston and Alexander Wang's Dorn.

Reggie Aquino, Spotsbible.PH associate beauty editor

"Because I'm not one to pack lightly on a daily basis as my everyday bag is always a few pounds overweight, I find that satchels are the best middle ground between functionality and portability. I especially like those with an extra shoulder strap that allows you to either sling it over your shoulder or carry it by hand. Just about finding a cognac-to-warmest piece that can withstand wear and tear. One made with good quality leather never disappoints and never goes out of style."

My current favorite is...

My black calfskin Chloé Bracy! It's roomy on the inside without looking bulky on the outside. The caramel-tipped straps and gold hardware make it touch more than just your basic black bag. I'm also dying to have the mustard python one, embroidered python-paint shopping tote at the striped trotter PS1 pouch.

CHLOE Madeleine in mustard

Andrea de Guzman-Mago, teacher and lifestyle writer

"Most of the bags in my closet are big totes and top handles. I have big, spacious and sturdy bags so I need to bring my entire life with me wherever I go."

My current favorite is...

The plain Givenchy Nightingale in camel, for both out-of-country travels and weekend lunch dates. It goes with my mostly neutral wardrobe. I also love that it is easy to carry around, if I get tired, I use the shoulder straps. We all know how commuting around European cities can take its toll with the wrong bag around.

All bags are available at Adora, 3/F Greenhill 5, Ayala Center, Makati City

'Lhuillier Brut' and more at a Chaine des Rotisseurs dinner

Before going home, guests went shopping at Gustavian's adjacent mini-mart

CEBU CEBU

Jasmin Picornell

THE LATEST installation of La Chaine des Rotisseurs in Cebu was held at the Gustavian restaurant in Banilad, on the road that leads to Maria Luisa Estate Park.

There were a large turn-out of guests, more than 70, some of whom had signed up weeks in advance.

Michel and Jacqueline Lhuillier were in their element, welcoming one and all at the entrance, offering champagne from behind which "Lhuillier Brut," specially bottled for them in France.

They had double wins that evening, first as owners of the Gustavian, and then as previous members of La Chaine. Michel heads the organization in the Philippines, while Jacqueline is the "Dame" of the Cebu chapter.

Among the first to arrive were Rep. Eddie Gullas and his wife Ming-Ming. She was wearing a frothy pink number she said she could not resist in a shop in St. Tropez when she visited the French Riviera last summer.

There was a good attendance from La Chaine's Cebu top brass: Teresita Mendezona, Vivina Francisca, Marlet Alonso with wife Jeji, Al Evangelio, Dave Sharpe and wife Joy, Alfonso Fernandez de Cañas (former Swiss Wagner), and executive chef Lalo Grajeno. The next Chaine event in Cebu will be the 10th anniversary gala with a Christmas theme, at the Marco Polo, on Dec. 6.

"That's my birthday," said Michel's sister Angie L. Matthew. She and Carmen Campbell were admiring the stamen of blue/violet "million flower" clusters that adorned the tables. The more black-tipped mangosta are, the more toxic is the soil, they were told. Cecilia Rodriguez said that is typical of the Iloilo terroirs and as many of French chateaux.

Main attraction

As the tuxedo had buffet the main attraction was the carving station dispensing the most tender, juiciest roast prime tenderloin ever with a choice of sauces. Pastas with a tarter the seasonal vegetables flavored by olive oil and a dash of vinegar.

Mövenpick's director for business development Helmut Gadelmayer came with wife Lorraine, and enjoyed conversation for the scenes of Oktoberfest at the Mövenpick in Muccua on the last Saturday of October. There was beer, as well as sausages galore, plus lively music from the Bavarian Sound Express band flown in from Germany for the event.

Glimpsed: Alves Balmaceda of Thunderjet Inc., Gabby Leynes with Tina Jordana, Vikki Hermosisima dancing in French with Juliette Blanchi from Alliance Francaise, Bob and Susie Oliver, and Joachim and Christina Schartz from the Marina Shangri-La.

Marie Glimpses: Hazel Inia, Michel Marchand, Carlo Sperna, Maxime Lamagna from the Michelangelo right next door to Cucinino, Binary Lasap and Mayan Tan, Marlo Klinger who is based in Hong Kong, Genie and Ricky Hilomen.

Inevitably, before going home, many dressed their lovesongs, baskets in hand, to the adjacent mini mart to shop for French gourmet delights, the assorted from Dijon, varied versions of fois gras, limited cheeses, asparagus spears and sausages. Most amused was Michel Lhuillier himself, coming close to the cash register. Reading a smile as he said "Merci, merci."

VIVINA Francisca, Tina Jordana, Gabby Leynes and Plantation Bay's Elren Balamban

LORENA and Helmut Gadelmayer, Amparito Lhuillier

Cirque Internationale shows in malls

ROBINSONS Malls presents Cirque Internationale, a series of circus shows from the Alarrie Entertainment Productions, with performers from the 60's.

Shows at are 2 and 4 p.m. and are free for the public. Schedule: Nov. 20, Robinsons Place Lipa and Galleria; Nov. 20, Robinsons Ilo. Flora Market and Starmalls Pampanga; Nov. 27, Robinsons Place Manila; Nov. 26, Robinsons Ermita; Dec. 3, Robinsons Iloilo Market; Robinsons Place Bacolod; Dec. 4, Robinsons Place Iloilo and Starmalls Bac; Dec. 10, Robinsons Place Angeles and Tacloban; Dec. 11, Robinsons Place San Jose and Imus; Dec. 17, Robinsons Place Ilo and Starmalls Baguio; Dec. 18, Robinsons Metro East, Forum Robinsons; Dec 29, Robinsons Place Manila; Dec. 31, Robinsons Galleria.

HOOPS dance in the circus show in **Robinsons Malls.**

Greyson Chance in Manila

American teen pop singer-songwriter and pianist Greyson Chance is coming to Manila this November for a special back-to-back performance at the Megaworld Lifestyle Malls. Catch him live at Eastwood Mall in Quezon City tonight, Nov. 20, 8 p.m. He will perform songs from his latest album "Hold on 'til the Night" like "Waiting Outside the Lines" and "Unfinished Mix." He became popular on YouTube with his cover of Lady Gaga's "Paparazzi," which was featured on "Glee." (JBLanton, Cell: 9306888, 7306888, 889-7-838-5111; visit www.realmovie2011.com)

Rex Navarrete in Cebu

Rex Navarrete performs in "Rex Navarrete Live" at the Waterfront Hotel Cebu on Nov. 25. He will be serving another show with his unique take and quirky observations on being Filipino, his personal and funniest personalities—including world class champ, Manny Pacquiao. Call 09189999; visit www.ticket-world.com.ph; e-mail marisol@ticketworldmail.com; www.facebook.com/thomaspabalanlocsin or tpablan@gmail.com.

'Little Mermaid' musical

Atlantis Productions presents "Disney's The Little Mermaid" until Dec. 11, at Meralco Theater, Ortigas Center, Pasig. Rachelle Ann Go will play the lead role Princess Ariel, while Erik Santos plays Prince Eric. It is directed by Gerlie and Dion Aseoche-Ocampo. Inside the story of Ariel, King Triton's youngest daughter, who has always longed to be a part of the human world, so when the evil sea witch Ursula, grants her the opportunity to spend legs and go after the heart of Prince Eric, she agrees at the opportunity, but with Ursula working against her she'll need help from her friends and family if she is ever to save her dreams. Local Cast: Ariel Prices are at P1,000, P1,200, P800, P1,100, P1,000 and P700. Call 8553178 or 8551187.

Nail spa promo

Nail-a-holics Nail Salon & Spa is offering a Mani-Pedi treatment package this season. Harmonizing a traditional Mexican ritual with modern techniques, the package includes a warm foot soak, callus scrub, dead skin removal, nail shaping, cuticle work, massage, hot towel wrap, paraffin treatment, and nail polish. Nail-a-holics also offers nail extension, paraffin treatment, and rebonding. Nail spa party. The Moroccan-Indian Bliss promo runs until January 2012. Visit branches in SM malls, Robinsons Metro East, California, Lipa, Marquee Mall, Angeles, Parkmall, Cathedral City, The Enclave Tower, Cash & Carry, Makati, Bonifacio Stopover, Rosa Laguna, Abreza Mall, Davao. Visit www.nailaholics.com, Nailaholics Nail Salon & Spa on Facebook, Nailaholics on Twitter.

SCHOLARS who graduated from the Video Relay Service Course with Rep. Bernadette Herrera-Dy of Bagong Henerasyon Party-list. It recently launched the Video Relay Service Course for the benefit of the NGO Telecom Service Network. The project aims to increase job opportunities for persons with disabilities. It teaches deaf and mute individuals to communicate using sign language via an interpreter through video telephones and conference through the Internet.

Diocese of Imus opens Jubilee Year, Santa Catalina town marks fiesta

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Derasa

THE DIOCESE of Imus opens its Jubilee Year on Nov. 24-25, marking the declaration of the whole province of Cavite as an independent diocese from its mother diocese, the Archdiocese of Manila, on Nov. 25, 1961 by Pope John XXIII, by virtue of the Apostolic Constitution "Christi Fideli-um."

The diocese was canonically erected on April 26, 1962 with the Most. Rev. Antonio S. Cueto as its first bishop. The parish church of Imus, Ina del Pilar in Imus was chosen as the cathedral church, the seat of the new diocese.

On Nov 24, ecclesiastical dignities will congregate at their respective places. There will be a program of songs and agape, after which, the vigil proper will take place. Confessions will be ongoing during the vigil. The districts that will have their vigil at a place outside of Imus will proceed by motorcade to Imus where they will congregate at a specific place to begin the procession together with their pastors going towards the Imus Cathedral.

By 11:30 p.m., everybody will be in front of the cathedral. At exactly 12 midnight, Bishop Luis Antonio Tagle will open the Holy Door of the Jubilee Door. The Bishop, together with the priests of the diocese, will pass through the Jubilee Door, after which the Eucharistic celebration begins.

On Nov. 25, 5 p.m., a Eucharistic celebration will be celebrated by Cardinal-to-be Cardinal Rosales inside the Imus Cathedral, with several Bishops concelebrating in thanksgiving for this year of grace.

Bishop Luis Antonio Tagle is to present bishop until he is installed Archbishop of Manila on Dec. 12, as the Manila Archbishop.

Imus history

In his history on the diocese, Fr Virgilio Ilarina Mendoza, parish priest of the Immaculate Conception Church in Naic, writes that the Diocese of Imus counts 3,338,555 Catholics with five ecclesiastical districts, 93 vicariates, 48 parishes, nine quasi-parishes and four pastoral centers.

There are 92 diocesan priests, eight religious priests and six priest priests assigned in different parishes and church institutions. Some are assigned in foreign lands as chaplains of the Filipino communities, or on study leave.

Cavite is almost like a little Vatican with the presence of 12 seminaries and formation houses for religious men, 65 religious houses for women, either formation houses or houses of prayer. On its turn, the diocese has its two seminaries – Our Lady of the Pillar Seminary and Tahanan ng Mabuting Pastol. There are also 18 houses of secular institutes. There are also 19 parochial schools, 23 congregational schools, three Catholic colleges and one university.

The patroness of the Diocese of Imus is Nuestra Señora del Pilar, whose feast is celebrated on Oct. 12. The Nuestra Señora de la Soledad de Nuta Vaga has been the patroness of the province of Cavite since her appointion in 1867. She is presently venerated in San Roque Church in Cavite City, which celebrates her feast on Nov. 13 and 20th. Bishop Emerito Manuel Salvosa-Baa will officiate the Concelebrated Mass today at 9 a.m., while Most Rev. Chito Tagle, Archbishop-elect of the Archdiocese of Manila, will celebrate the 6 p.m. Mass.

In the 9am II Ilocos Mass, "Awmanec mayor" Rev David invited baritone Jack Salud to sing "Ave Maria" by Caccini, while soprano Noemi Mocarzel-Wagan sang with the Bonggang Himig choir of the Sacred Heart Parish in QC.

CATHEDRAL of Our Lady of the Pilar in Imus, Cavite

Ilocos Sur parish fiesta

Thanks to former Manila Councilor Bernardo Ragasa, Jr., we learned that Santa Catalina town in Ilocos Sur celebrates its fiesta on Nov. 25. Named after St. Catherine of Alexandria, the parish is managed by Fr. Vicente Mora as parish priest. The parish belongs to the Archdiocese of Nueva Segovia headed by Archbishop Ernesto Salgado.

Councilor Ragasa's father, Bernardo F. Ragasa, Sr., was the mayor of Santa Catalina from 1957-1963. When he was only 30 years old, the younger Ragasa lost his father to Alzheimer's. Ragasa Sr. was never seen again. It was believed then that the crime was committed by people who resented the senior Ragasa's strict rules about mining gold in the area.

The Mayor Bernardo F. Ragasa Elementary School stands today, however, in his memory as a good mayor. Councilor Ragasa, Jr. got back to his hometown, attending to the needs of the church like donating new Stations of the Cross (when the old ones were stolen) and improving the sound system.

Mensa Domini formation house

Mensa Domini (The Lord's Table) ordo was founded by the late Bishop Cornelio Geruin in San Jose, Antique. In 1975, then Bishop Nicolas Mondejar invited the nuns to Dalaguete, Cebu, to help in catechetical work and BEC activities. On Oct. 25, the Our Lady of Fatima Formation House was blessed by Msgr. Ernie Strabito in a fully renovated area in Odiongan. Attended by the late Augusto Fortis and his family.

Sr. Ma. Rosa Portillo also donated the three-ft image of Our Lady of Fatima. Superior general is Sister Delia Marcelino. Young ladies interested to join the congregation can call Monas Dominic at tel. no. 8224822 (Quezon City convent).

Joyful mysteries for Senegal intention

Let us pray the Joyful Mysteries tomorrow for the intentions of Senegal (Africa)—that economic reform will decrease the country's dependence on foreign aid, that Senegal's involvement in peacekeeping be recognized, that Senegalese migrant workers in Europe be treated fairly, that the country succeed in solving its water shortage, and that the government and insurgents in the south of the country come to peace.

Ambassadors of Light at Philamlife

Ambassadors of Light Foundation, Inc., will present its choral group in a fundraising concert on Nov. 26, 7 p.m., at the Philamlife Auditorium, to raise funds for the scholarship of 22 members (male and female "amplified" singers). Ambassadors, who is visually impaired himself, founded Ambassadors of Light in June 2000. Titled "Dream of my Heart, Part II", the concert will also feature Lourd Lozada, who was a former scholar of ALI. Tickets available at the gate, or text Imma at 0917.871.8876.

Condolences to the Diocese of Imus Personnels for the the passing away of their bishop, Most Rev. Antonio Aflleru, SVD. Funeral Mass is on Nov. 22, 9 a.m., at San Fernando Cathedral.

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CHICHE Fabián Lara, Rhona Lopa Manasan

For these women of certain age, writing is 'therapy without the atrocious costs'

Behind this anthology are women who believe that 'something happens when you write'

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NIGHT MARKET @ MARKET! MARKET!

By Elizabeth Lalanga
Contributor

OVER MINT lemonades, sausage-thick cheese sticks that they can easily burn through golf and the stray diet soda, Rhona Lopa Manasan, Cecilia Lopez Lilles and Chichi Fabián-Lara look like ladies of leisure sneaking time off from a full schedule of carpooling or playing soccer mom or corporate wife. They unmistakably exude the discreet charm of the bourgeoisie.

First impressions are dashed, however, when they reveal how serious they are about mastering writing and, to use one of the women's terms, the "emotional pornography" it sometimes requires. They've just launched their second anthology this time exploring the essay genre in "Dancing Bones: Women in Transit" (Ateneo Books).

There they won a collection of short fiction "When We We're Little (Volumes)," also published by Ateneo.

Average age

Not only are they past their child-bearing and rearing years; Manasan, the book's editor, puts the average age of the members of her writing group at 46, if one takes into account that there is a grandmother

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The Science Behind Lipout™

For these ladies of a certain age, writing is 'therapy without the atrocious costs'

From page E1

there (Matilde) by quia Mahanta) who is 79 plus, and the youngest is in her early 60s. It comes as a mild shock that there are still women like these who consider their age "a non-sexist," Macaraeg smiles.

Informally called Second Generation to tell themselves apart from an older group of ladies (among them, Lourdes Montinola, Meri Lutmo, Linda Padilla) also mentored by professor Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo, Macaraeg, Lilles, Lizot, Mahanta, Noche Garcia-Camerpuan, Rina Regala-Garcia, Peji Lacuna, Xit Mei, Gianna Montinola, Mia Padilla and Gerardeen Ocampo-Javier company have been meeting since 1999.

Lilles says that to Hidalgo, "It is not enough that you've written in high school and college. For those joining late in the game, the capacity must to know how to write."

Why writing? Lizot, who has lived for 14 years in different houses and cultures to be by her banker husband's side, replies, "I've translated books from French to English. It's heartening to think I'm just a translator. I decided it's time I wrote the stories myself and joined the group. All the experiences I went through, especially the hardships and the clash of cultures, are worth writing about."

Most of the Second Generation are friends who meet in each other's homes when their turns come in new Wednesdays in a month from 9 a.m. to noon. To be sure, meetings, they e-mail one another the homework they're required. Macaraeg says, "It's like we have inside info on each other. So when we're with others, they don't get it."

XXX MEI...Rina Regala-Garcia, Mia Padilla, Cecile Lopez-Lilles

Invitation

Lilles, a prize winner in a breakfast's book-review writing contest, accepted Montinola's invitation to join the group, except that Hidalgo "doesn't teach. Writing 101. She presumes you know how to write."

They remember a Roman guy who walked into their workshop and mistook it for an English as a Secondary Language class. He got intimidated when he saw how far advanced the members are. He never returned.

Macaraeg tells the workshop format "sacred silence we're given writing exercises, sometimes all about description, e.g., describe a room to where you read it, you experience an emotion like sadness." From there they proceed to describing a character, writing a scene until they progress to writing full-fixed or sudden fiction, fiction and creative non-fiction.

They take up end-of-life Filipino and for eight o'clock before class is mandatorily eschewed with what their learning module is for the moment. Hidalgo teaches the genre, gives them examples, then they write at the end.

Montinola, an Ateneo interdisciplinary studies graduate who has edited the Second Generation's two anthologies, describes their workshop as a non-graded relaxation situation "geared toward us having our own books eventually like (Hidalgo) wants us to be published so often as we can individually or as a group."

She is the group's consensus choice as editor. Lilles says, "She's incredible. She uses the nitty-gritty of everything, and her grammar is impeccable."

Getting all the writers together, even for a class, is hard because they all travel frequently and are customarily re-arranging their schedules so they can be a good majority of eight or nine in a session.

Lizot likes the writing process for providing her catharsis, as her story "Missing" shows where she's on pins and needles as she awaits word from a son who backpacks around the world with no money or worldly

CREATIVE...Pantoja Hidalgo, Marichel Ty-Quia-Mahanta

goods. "Writing is therapeutic without the atrocious costs," she says.

Remarkable restraint

Lopez calls it "therapy without the atrocious costs." Her "Silence is a Refugee" ends with a meditation on statistics on the invisible misery of all whose will is not right in the home. She practices a remarkable restraint of not leaving it all out on what seems to be a failed relationship.

She credits Hidalgo for teaching her the technique of "letting something cool for the reader to discover. That way you engage the reader. You can't hand your readers."

Macaraeg enjoys the process of creative burnout. "I play with words and images. I find time to be alone to think, to be totally in the zone which is a different frame of mind altogether, a satisfying state."

Her short "Still Life", set by a lake dutch in an all-resort in Mars, reads like a prose poem that may have been laboured over. In fact, Lilles and Lizot, they "had to practically hold a gun to her (Macaraeg's) head, we threatened her," as she seemed more inclined to edit their works or write fiction rather than necessary.

Lilles describes Macaraeg's prose: "It has a cadence. There's not a word out of place. Her style is literary and demands a mature reader. Every line and lacing if you don't get it."

"It didn't take me long," Macaraeg says, "I got in the zone. Recently, it just took me one afternoon and I completed."

She chooses the hours from 11 p.m. till 3 a.m. to write so it's quiet and she doesn't get bothered. "My creative hours are at night. In the morning, I'm a zombie, although I write more on past it pads beside the bed in case an idea or a phrase comes up."

Lizot's writing hours are the same. When her French husband retired, she saw his need for her company. He recently left abroad for a consulting job. The wife says, "Hopefully, that will give me time to write."

Secrecy

Self-censorship creeps in when they write for your-eyes-only compositions. The artistic is born out of fear of offending their families, especially children and parents, since they mine their stories and source from experiences and their parents of culture may not always be flattering.

Although Hidalgo encourages them with statements like "If you're afraid, why write at all? You won't be a writer if you're not brave," she has told them that her generation is also secretive, and there are some things she can't write about.

When they gave short stories for "Where We Were Little (Memoir)," Lizot says, "We were not prepared to have all, as one child-hood story were formulated."

The three think that Lanzilers, Ilie Shit and Mahanta are "the brave ones," especially the older Mahanta who likes to declare, "I don't care, I will write about it."

The three found other ancestors they enjoy delving together: exercising 'guilt' or 'shame', developing "conflict or tension" just to bring together or to particular voices," says Lilles, who relishes subplots as children, earning her the name "Julie Andrews" from the group. "We're not social butterflies who hang out to be seen. We like to be together to chat."

Old rules

Apart from partners who are appropriate "by leaving us alone," they feel they owe their developing, if not developed, skills to Hidalgo whom they call as "no-horror teacher or who is very dedicated to what she does. She lives and breathes literature."

Talent says Hidalgo doesn't want anything more than "for us to come out with our individual projects. It's like she's addressing us as old adults, but she doesn't force us."

Asked if they do any paid work at all, the three admit that they don't and feel happily liberated that way. In fact, all author's royalties from the sales of their book go to the Lilliam Foundation that funds scholarships for writing majors at the University of the Philippines Institute of Creative Writing.

Lilles likes to quote an artist who once said, "All art comes from a place of pain."

It is hard to tell where that place is just from an afternoon with these three women as they move to the rest of their evening, phrases, ideas and lyrical producing to their minds for their new tales.

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CEBU DAILY NEWS

INQUIRER

Brahma Kumaris retreat

FOODS are spreading waves of peace to the East Visayas as they way of serving the world. The Brahma Kumaris Retreat Center for Spiritual Learning in Tagaytay will hold its eighth anniversary on Nov. 16, 6-7 pm. Titled "Wealth," it will offer inspirational songs, dances, poetry, video, sharing of experiences and an introduction to easy rajayoga, open eyed meditation. A vegetarian cocktail will offer tasty sweets and savories without eggs, onions and garlic. The event is free to the public. Located at 1020 Magallanes Drive, Tagaytay City; call (046) 483 2108, 0917-503 0343; e-mail tagaytay@bkwsu.org

Foreign Familiar exhibit

The Foreign Familiar Photography Exhibition is ongoing until today, Nov. 13, in Shangri-La Plaza, Mandaluyong. It features shots taken by photographers from Reuters courtesy their photos, their experiences in Asia. Series photographers Ferdi Kayiat' City of Ambition Asia-opined by the first visit to Guangzhou, China, England-born Oliver Wo-Kat's Spaces in Between is an eye-opening orbit of Thailand, Norman Reid-gung Bonenkel depicts his art-ventures in Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore with Rahel Maringa de Mar of Northern lands explores a moving depiction of China, "Bangkok Twilight" by Germany's Mink Beretty and "Galapagos Project" by French photographer Bruno Quinquenight-lights the colorful sights of Japan. Peter Steinauer of US, who has lived in China, Vietnam and Burma, memorializes his experiences with Reflections of Dhaka and Calm. Laurence Lebbos of France expresses her passion for Cambodia. Swiss photographer Graziella Antonini conveys the pleasant sensation of being lost in Japan during her stay. The event is coordinated by Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines, Institute Goethe of Philippines, Alliance Francaise de Manille, and the Embassies of Italy, Switzerland, Netherlands. Call 8170987, visit www.goethe.de/manila.

Why boxing is not a sport

By Maria Dulce V. Aristorenas
Contributor

DO YOU care how Manny Pacquiao is fat on his first three and then on his entire torso with a wide wooden pole, like he's a baseball ball being hit with a tremendous swing of a baseball bat?

Pacquiao-referees, I'm sure, have not supposed to. Because it's a TV set.

But you don't see all of what they do in a boxer while training. They hit him on the face with boxing gloves, right-left, right-left. And it's not kid-stuff.

It's supposed to make the boxer get used to being stunned so somehow instinct, called the Ultimate Weirdness.

Now, they make him dance like a drunk chicken-losing his head to "It's Showtime!"

Then they hit him somewhere when he's dancing and he shouldn't fall.

Then they make him jog, if possible, not on a plain ol' rain but land that gently goes up to Baguio (if you put all his jogging courses together).

Where did I get all these? From TV news clips of our hero, Manny Pacquiao, training. Yes, I call him a hero because he is the only one who the world knows is a Filipino by summing our collective nerve or a nation with buzzed blood, sweat, and tears.

Now, let's watch the real fight of the race.

Her son's future in-laws want a big wedding

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

DEAR EMILY,

My 23-year-old son recently got his girlfriend, also 23, pregnant. They were former classmates in computer science. The girl comes from a well-to-do family, where her parents are both professionals. This girl told me about her pregnancy a month ago, but kept it a secret from her own family. I counseled her to tell her parents about it, but she refused.

Last week, her mother "summoned" me and my son to a meeting at their house and she was very agitated. The father and mother were there when we arrived, and immediately both started raising their voices at us. They accused us of conniving to keep this pregnancy secret, and how my family has lost their trust. The mother claimed that my son is taking advantage of their daughter after all the faith he had in him!

They want a full-blown wedding with at least 150 of their relatives and friends in attendance. The mother said it's the first wedding in their family, and they want it "unforgettable." They also want us to save another little because any later date will clearly show her pregnancy and cause embarrassment, the parents claimed.

Since I came alone with my son, with no other relatives to support us, I just sat there quietly. I just said I will have to consult my husband, who is a painter OFW in the Middle East.

I am a lowly government employee myself and so is my other child. We can barely pay for our small apartment and utilities with the low salaries we are getting.

I told my son to fix his wedding himself with his girlfriend and maybe go just a small wedding in the municipal hall to get it over with. He said it was impossible, as the girl's parents are adamant about a big wedding. He knows how our loans from both banks and sharks are barely paid on their due dates. There is nothing to sell anymore or credit to borrow. We've exhausted all our options. Are some people really heartless and unthinking?

—Exhausted Mother

If there is a person you should be talking with in return, it is the girl and her parents. Her self is at pregnancy. She wasn't raped! The decision was 50 percent hers. Whatever happened to abstinence? Or condoms? Is saying NO? She's a 23-year-old college graduate! Did she still think babies came from stork?

The girl's parents may be trying to keep up with their bosses, but not you! Under the pressure girl gives your hand-to-work-manner when she was coming to your house? Won't she able to compare her household and yours—or was she completely blinded by her love for your son? How can she allow her parents to demand something that would be a pain for your family to grant? That's unreasonable!

Let your son handle this problem. It's his problem! He is of age! This is not even a problem in its true sense. It's just an embarrassment for the girl's family—an image problem that is an absolute! Your son cannot and shouldn't in conscience subject you to this kind of ordeal, to this suffering. Saving face is so false, as it is just pride! Take note that if you have already turned to "shades" for help, you must really be in dire straights.

Stand your ground. Nobody will die from shame nor losing a simple marriage.

E-mail emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph or emarcelo@gmail.com, subject: Lifestyle.

A zoom-in shot showed his face: bloodied, sore, a nasty bump beside his left eye, blood oozing from it. And the people cheered

Our hero was brought to the corner; his eyes filled by the referee. But the zoom-in shot on Manny's face is also gory. He looked like the man he defeated, Hatl. Bonjour words.

Do you think that, after each fight, a boxer sleeps in peace? No, he sleeps in pain. Unless the doctors do some magic, are don't know what (also that) pain away.

And after five months he is ready to pummel another rival.

Do you remember the great Muhammad Ali? "Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee." To all boxers, that was his signature phrase.

Ten years later, he can't get up in his bed, can't walk, and did not recognize anything nor anyone on earth.

Muhammad Ali? The one who called himself "I Am The Greatest!" because of the men he sucked and sucked and made him the king of all boxers?

There, people started thinking really boxing is a sport?

Isn't included in the Olympics?

A sport, from the very word itself, shows literally what the brain hopes is the winner who can use him or her or anywhere him at last.

In the volleyball scores, in the gymnastics where athletes show off grace and strength, to the ice skating rink where men and women dance and show off perfectly complex formation as they vocals multi-thousand playing.

If you think about it, boxing is a barrel on the arrows. In movies, it's when James Bond meets his enemies will no guns.

And when such a thing happens, don't the police come and bring you in the nearest police outpost—for breaking the peace and hurting another?

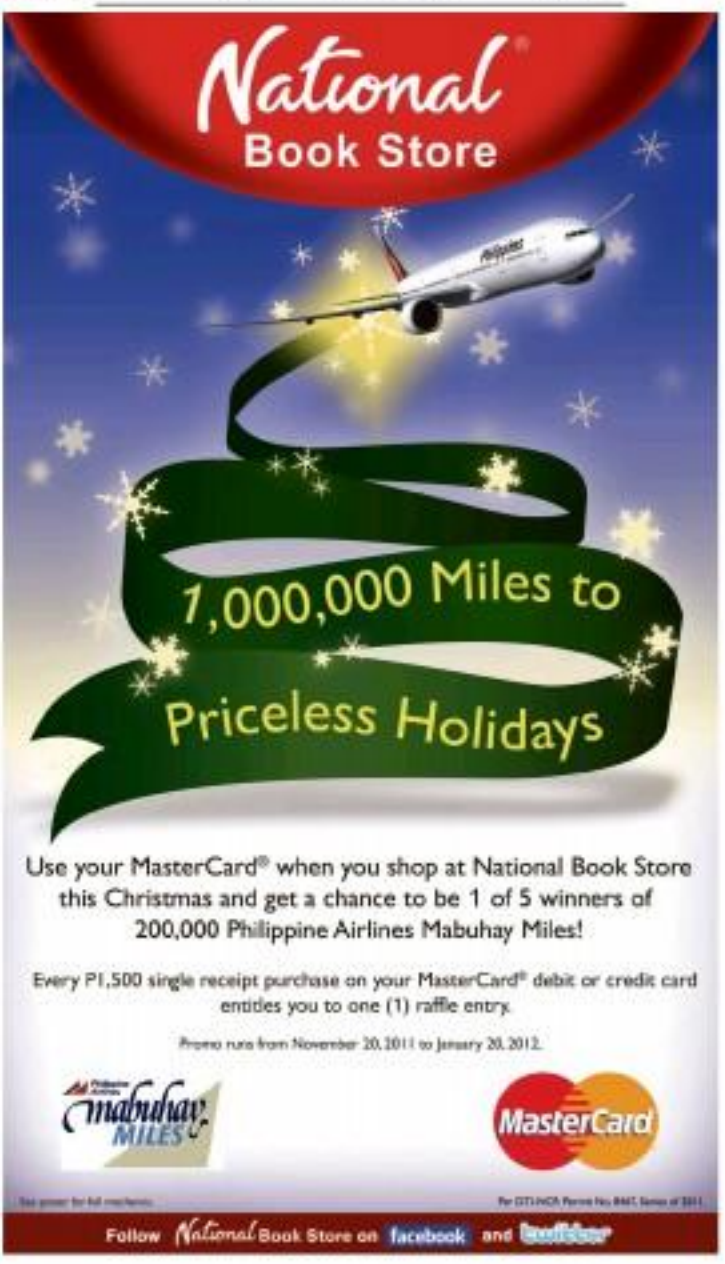
See that's a sport!

I implore Manny Pacquiao to retire and give his battered body a chance to recover from the hurts it has taken.

Boxing is not a sport.

Give me a choice.

Think about it.



Globe and SM Advantage team up for a new rewards offer

Globe Telecom and SM, two major players in the telecom and retail industries respectively, with very successful loyalty programs – MyRewards MyGlobe/TM Astig Rewards, and SM Advantage (SMAC) join forces once again this year to delight Globe/TM subscribers & SMAC members.

MyRewards MyGlobe and TM Astig Rewards first partnered with SM Advantage in November 2010 offering Globe and TM subscribers the flexibility of converting their earned Globe/TM rewards points into SM Advantage points. With instant points conversion, subscribers are given more choices on how they want to use their earned points in SM malls nationwide.

The Globe-SM Advantage partnership has evolved into a flourishing program as millions of rewards points are being converted by subscribers. It is with the success of this program that the two companies are determined to launch another rewards offer to indulge subscribers and members with more exciting benefits.

With Globe and SM Advantage's new offer, Globe and TM subscribers who are also SM Advantage members can easily redeem relevant rewards using their SM Advantage points. Members can convert their earned SM Advantage points to Globe and TM call, text and surf rewards instant.

"We are more than delighted to let our subscribers enjoy rewards from points they already earned from shopping in SM. Globe and TM subscribers who are also SM Advantage members can now convert their SM Advantage points to Globe and TM rewards instantly, anytime they choose, and anywhere - without the need to go out of the house!"

"Imagine someone at home or in transit without load. He doesn't need to go out of his way to go to the loading station. He can easily buy in the call, text or surf reward he wants to redeem and his SM Advantage Card number, and he will receive his reward instantly via text!" explains Jay Beltran, Head of Customer Lifecycle Management at Globe Telecom.

For as low as 15 SM Advantage points, a Globe or TM subscriber can send a whole lot of messages when he redeems a Sulit@15 (100 texts to Globe/TM for 1 day) or a TM Combo 15 (60 texts + 3 mins. of calls to Globe/TM for 1 day) instantly.

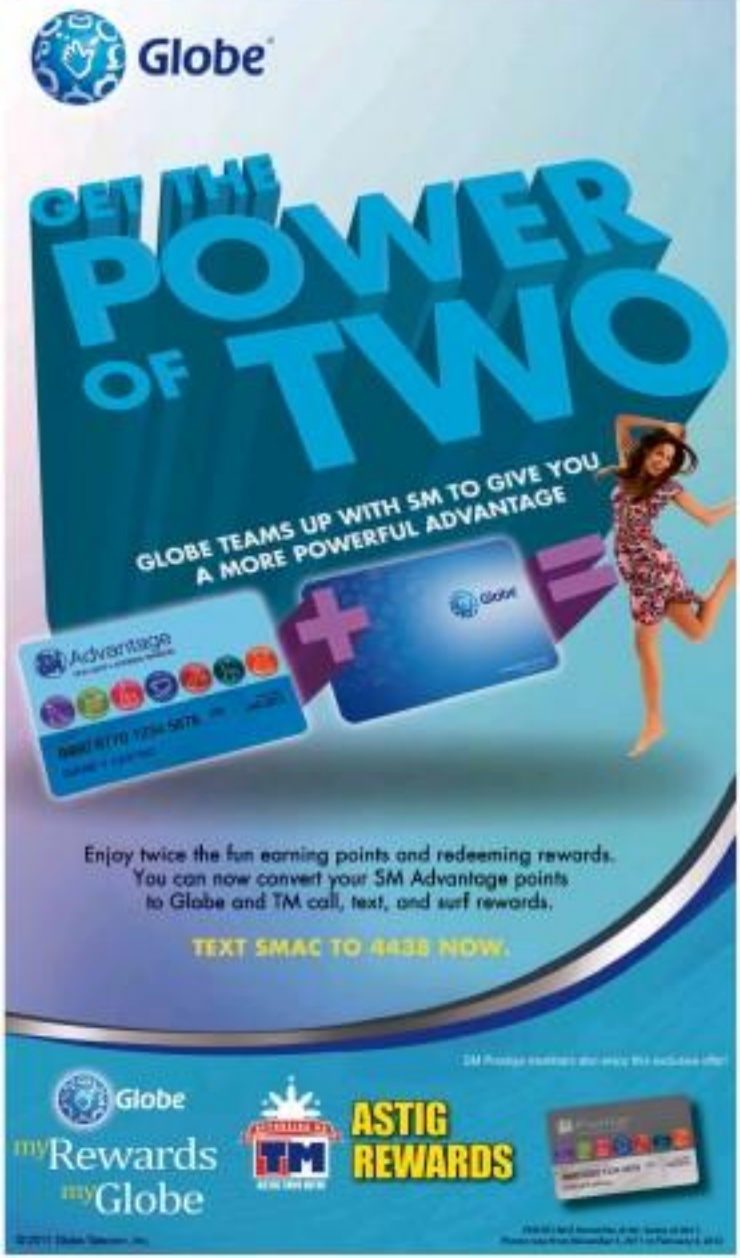
With this offer, they stay connected with their friends and loved ones with little SM Advantage points required.

Subscribers also enjoy the flexibility of choosing the rewards they want and need. Members with a lot of SM Advantage points can redeem higher value rewards such as Unlitxt for unlimited texting all day and MySuperSurf for non stop internet browsing.

"Globe and SM teamed up for this project to give our subscribers the most value for their money. While shoppers get SM Advantage points from their purchase, Globe offers relevant rewards they could avail at minimal points needed," Beltran adds.

Convert SM Advantage points to Globe and TM call, text and surf rewards!
Text SMAC to 4438 for free info (for Globe prepaid, postpaid and TM subscribers).
To convert your SM Advantage points to Globe or TM call, text and surf rewards, just text
SMACREDEEM <space> ITEM CODE <space> 16-digit SMAC # <space> BIRTHDAY
to 4438. P1/transaction.
Ex. SMACREDEEM SLEEP321 8888770123456789 12031980

*You may also convert your Globe/TM rewards points** to 1,000 SM Advantage points by texting* REDEEM <space> SMAC1000 <space> 16-digit SMAC # to 4438. P1/transaction.
Ex. REDEEM SMAC1000 8888770123456789
**1,000 Globe/TM rewards points to redeem SMAC1000



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And the dish ran away with the spoon

Memories of 'the most impressive, most cultured party in the universe,' as hosted by David Medalla

Gilda Cordero Fernando

FOREVER 81

I LEARNED from Ugat Ufrasio's column in The Sun that the great David Medalla was in town. It brought me back to the Nitida days of the '50s, when some rubble still remained from the bombing of the Iriarte-Malate area during the Liberation.

David had put up a boxing barong in the bowels of a grand building and proclaimed it "Le Cave des Jongleis"—a cafe. It was probably Manila's first poetry reading venue and actually everyone with comic literary k-os performed.

Medalla is now 69(?) years old. But his picture showed him still a pixie, either dreadlocks or a Dracula. He was, and still is, a wry, relatively reserved, sensible, personable, creative artist beyond compare and his own best PR.

By coincidence, a week ago, an old comfortable necklace from the debris in my budoge. In it was something I had written on a David happening 50 or so years ago. I thought I would share it with artists and writers of my generation who still remain standing.

David Medalla, poet, painter and performance artist, 17 years old in 1957, was Feniza's boy genius and proto-hippie, having just made a name with his Bubble Machines in London. His "Le Cave des Jongleis," a barong barongin the shell of a bombed-out building on A. Mabini, had become a cafe without serving a drop of coffee. He read poems by Baudelaire, Rimbaud and other French decadents, and had a rock following of writers, artists and unphilistines who sat on the lumpy cushions, endorsing the beat and the bedbugs.

Once David gave a party for Jun Lansang (then writer of Communist leader Jose Lava) who had won a Palanca poetry award. Jun was emotionally unstable, but everyone loved him. The party was like a Madeleine's, only leaner. Twelve places with wet goldenseal were set on a long table. It would have been a nice party except that 21 people showed up.

Around were Adelaida Miranda (senior diplomat) and Mrs. M., Hudson Tete Lewis (First Lady of Free Print) and her son Bobbyboy, and 14 Milletts (Italian painters with the male sideburns). At the table sat Carol Guerrero and short story writer Joy Hayen (both gallery owners), Willie Sanchez, Jun Tera and founded Franklin Cassis (sheer poets).

Wraparound skirt

On the other side were Jaloco Cuadra (who looked like Marlon Brando) and his wife, painter Juan Edades, her face hidden behind a wraparound skirt. There were Lily Amateau (Batanes!), Lenny Benson (poet-critic who looked like a debauched Jesus Christ), Larry Francia (poet-painter) and me.

David stood at the door, swilling a Coca-Cola, resplendent in his bright yellow batik wraparound skirt, antique Indian bracelets and numerous rings. Beside him was Scary Dog-gie, a blond one-man fan club David had dragged home from England. Every time a new guest arrived or entered/departed, she chaired back to be rearranged and our songs moved, and that went on throughout the dinner. More guests kept coming in and at one time there were a min agroll troupe. I was sure mine were with Larry.

Jun Lansang and David Medalla were newly-enga

When did it become okay to wear baseball caps at dinner table?

Conchita C. Razon

MY CHAIR ROCKS

SITTING on the sidelines at family gatherings can be very interesting. You must try it sometime.

There you are, minding your own business, trying to do a friend route of the children running around you and to figure out who belongs to whom.

Then suddenly a voice rings out. The speaker is stressed. "You are not going anywhere dressed like that!"

Subject of that outburst is a scantily dressed "just visiting" who is wearing inappropriate clothes to a "proper" event.

I shudder when I realize that the time I spent in front over an outfit she/he paid for is the first place.

I remember my mother always chose what we were to wear for whatever occasion. Jeans and necklaces were always prohibited by checked. Ah, but that was so long ago!

Like most grandparents, I cringe at the changes that time seems to have inflicted on the rearing of our young. When did it start? And who started it?

I think the change did not happen overnight. I believe it crept in when we were trying so hard to be casual in the face of blatant rudeness or disrespect. It took hold when we looked the other way and when we chickened out of the confrontation "out of beauty and peace" for the sake of our young people, just to keep the peace!

It gets even when we justified bad behavior by calling it "just a phase."

Look what has happened to fashion. Where did it become okay to wear baseball caps (or hats) inside the house? At the dinner table, too? Yesterday's attire, which is really underwear, is now called a muscle shirt. In my book, neither is acceptable in the house, much less at the table. I don't care what they call it.

I'm on a roll. So here's more:

Underwear faces are sloppy. Pants with holes and severely threadbare cuffs are untidy and never attractive. Rings or studs pierced on the tongue or any other part of the body look frightening and must be excruciatingly painful.

What are we not teaching our children? Have parents abdicated their positions of authority in response to the 'let us be friends' way of thinking?

By the way, shouldn't airlines have a dress code? I imagine sitting on a 10- or 14-hour-more Pacific flight beside a man in an undershirt and flip flops!

Since we're when a fresh mouth got a smack from the hand of someone's client. Or at the least, it provoked a lengthy and impassioned reprimand. Now they call it a self-expression, an opportunity for the child to verbalize his/her inner thoughts and emotions.

Burp nonstop

Even body functions have become competitive sports among the young. I heard a friends neighbor tell my little sister that her brother could burp continuously for 10 minutes after drinking only one glass of water. She was serious in tone, and if the boy had just accomplished a feat of keeping 10 bulls-up in the air without dropping one.

I heard my little girl say "Ahhpatching" (yes, she lisped), and I breathed a sigh of relief.

What are we teaching our children? Or, worse, what are we not teaching them?

Our parents relinquished this all-important role and if so, to whom? Have they abdicated their positions of authority in response to the "let us be friends" way of thinking?

My thoughts is that throughout their lives, your children will have numerous friends, but only one mother and one father.

We are accused of being overprotective.

Is a parent out of bounds when she requires her child to walk under an umbrella in the rain? Or when she keeps an ear for his breath on a rainy day? Does objecting to a sleepover date make you an unreasonable person? Are we even allowed to ask whose house it is, or who else sleeps in it?

When the children start dating, when they fall in love, isn't it normal to want implications, some parenting of four within our souls?

There's a cruel world out there waiting to engulf the young in a flood of skewed values. Before darkness falls, we want to have our hearts in mind ready.

A song by Barbra Streisand says it so well. Here are a few lines from "If I Could."

"If I could I'd protect you from the sadness in your eyes. Give you courage in a world of compromise. But I would.

"If I could, I would try to shield your innocence from time. But the part of life I gave you isn't mine. I watched you grow so I could let you go.

"If I could, I would teach you all the things that I have learned; I would help you ease the badness I have burned.

MORAL GAPS !!

The senior bride

Chit Roces

NOT QUITE THERE

More documents were required of second-timers; the apparent suspicion was that, having lived longer, they had done more questionable deeds

IN AUGUST 2005, our first marriage finally annulled, I used my pastors of many years decided to remarry. It was going to be a simple, unfortunate affair, unfortunate more for its particular value to us than for anything else. Definitely more than old enough to disavow to be in debted, we were prepared to walk through it all.

As it happened, neither we nor City Hall was prepared for our case; just decidedly normal, the other more months off senior-hood going for it again, was oldsters who, for all the once they have taken with themselves, both their age, or close enough.

My mate must be beaten than seventy years for age, on this day proudly parenthesis in jeans and a tucked-in shirt, but the shock of white hair and the lines on his face were not about to fool the lady behind the marriage license window.

My new hair is dyed ash brown—quite fetchingly if I were to believe compliments—and because, as **with most lady. There are** few other things age has taken away that allow to be concealed, let alone recovered.

"I've a license to marry marriage license?" asked **the lady.**

Taking refers offense at **the impertinence**, my bride-groom and friend of each other, but just as quickly sounded me soon with the usual appliances at her window. And with one could, dear voice, we replied that the license was for us. He smiled thoughtfully and he has our license it, answered and we are began to those around, prompting me to ask the some space and privacy.

"Honey?"

"Yeah single," I said.

The correct answer, I suspect, should have been "sweetheart," since both of us had been married. That little, unintended misapprehension sent us to the family planning office, I learn, be subjected to a lecture illustrated with diagrams of the reproductive system I hadn't seen since high school. A closer look at us, however, produced the necessary waivers.

Psychological tests

Still, we could not escape the psychological tests measuring our levels of preparedness for marriage. Some of the questions were unbelievable, but, the recidivists that we were, we already knew the standard right answers.

A further discovery was that many documents were required of second-timers; the apparent suspicion was that, having lived longer, they had done more questionable deeds than normal newer before married applicants. Which complicated things for us.

The remodeled of my bridegroom's civil first marriage, for instance, disappeared with the town in which it was performed, which had been absorbed by another municipality. They were found in time, at any rate.

We had just gotten our license when our new In Christine Tan, a dear friend we were in love seeing for the last time—she would pass away too soon. She had been fond of us as a couple, associated as we were. I broke the happy news to her.

"We're getting married," I whispered, leaning her.

She snapped back and, in a somewhat nodding tone, retorted, "What for?"

It took me seconds in recover from that, but got over any sense of disappointment soon. If there was anyone who loved us for what we were, it was Sister Christine.

Another dear friend, one from my teen school, Ai Theresa's, one only partly pleased. She would only be fully relieved, she indicated, after we had gotten married in church, thus ending our status as lost souls. Actually, we had merely intended to be legal souls, as proclaimed by an all-too-human presiding judge of the Sandiganbayan, a high school classmate.

In fact, not being married didn't take away and could not have taken away at all from the quality of our relationship. Marriage has its decidedly legal and practical benefits.

Marriage will always touch off all sorts of reactions. But a second marriage, by its very nature, will touch a nerve, particularly among family and friends divided by the fall out of the first one.

Either one found for us or one unaffected by the vox of the meddling public, my New Deal friends, a smiling group of hopefuls re-reunited collected and led by Gilda, did the most natural romantic thing: they gave us a dinner.

And the dish ran away...

Pamagat P1

DAVID MEDALLA

mushrooms would re-resume all, the odiousness and the pungent dessert.

The friend waiter put a spoonful of "omelette" on David's plate and David said, indicating Jun Lumanog, "Why don't you serve our honorees first?" It aroused the waiter had taken David, with his long hair and heaviness and shirt, for a girl, and said haughtily, "Because we always serve the ladies first."

Multiplying the mushrooms

Before we could put another spoonful into our mouths, however, we had to say a prayer with palms up for the mushroomers. More people were coming in and I was perplexed how Sharing Llaguno, the patroness of the dinner, would cope with having to multiply the mushrooms and the rolls.

Five pairs seemed to have come just to watch and put it upon the mute fellow to say something important. Finally, Ana Garcia Villa arrived (alas, there was no more dinner left!) and everyone's hopes rose high. But all the great Villa could say was, "Why are you all cackling with low voices, no one has a baritone like me?" Which was hardly overbearing, and though we strained hard, there was nothing more.

Nina Mendez and Dimitri talking about our encounters. Joy Zayas whispered that she would be afraid to go out with someone like Jun because he was "obviously a bird." Lily Amateur announced that she was selling cemetery lots and David agreed to buy one on condition that he be allowed to build a barong barong on it.

Eventually Joy was persuaded to recite his amusing poem, Midway he forgot his lines and floundered, in utter panic, his eyes roam with tears. And Lucy Francia, always a savior of the occasions, said, "It's all right, Jun, nobody remembers his own poems."

And everybody had a kind word for Jun. And if only people who are confused, or depressed or have lost a loan or an office, how many people love them, they would have a brighter outlook.

David Medalla exited his own poem swiftlessly in a silky voice, and there was a lot of French in it. This made Jun even sadder and he kept blowing into his dinner napkin all throughout the dinner. Jun Ochoa thanked her dessert and promptly fell asleep on her dessert, snoring softly during the remainder and a discussion on Rimbaud.

Someone had given Jun a huge red papier maché horse which he had to carry home in a small taxi. The two could hardly fit in the back seat of the cab, and they looked like a Tiny pair about to elope. But if the drivers could see any with the spoon, why indeed couldn't a red papier maché horse and Jun?

Now it can be told–Clinton at Diamond Hotel

DIAMOND HOTEL management team recently welcomed US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton during her stay in Manila. The hotel served as her official residence for the duration of her visit to attend the 60th anniversary celebration of the Philippine-US Mutual Defense Treaty.

Photo shows the featured Hotel executives led by their president, Cecile Ang (fifth from left), and general manager, Simeon Lehanne Soriongco (seventh from left), welcoming Secretary Clinton (ninth from left). Looking on are (from left) Aida Lui, deputy financial controller; Gino Manlulu, F&B director; Sandrino Robles, director of sales and marketing; Wenida Elbaoh, chief financial officer; George Stoyanov, rooms division manager; Lou Tabar, HR manager; Nicholas Stoyanov, executive chef; Trygve Tegnelia, senior assistant manager, and Lou Ramon Bagtas, security consultant.

Diamond Hotel Philippines is at Roxas Boulevard, cor. Dr. J Quintos St., Manila.

For inquiries and reservations, call (2)8528000, 3618000 or e-mail dhreservations@diamondhotel.com. For more information, please visit www.diamondhotel.com.

When did it become okay to wear baseball caps at dinner table?

From page F1

"I would help you make it through the hungry years. But I know I can never cry once tears, but I would, if I could.

"I would change the world I brought you to, but there isn't very much that I can do, but I would if I could."

Are we protective of our young? You bet we are.

Thanksgiving Day is on Nov. 24. In the US, where it started with the Pilgrims on Plymouth Rock in the 1600s, it is one of the biggest holidays of the year.

In our home, wherever we may be, we still celebrate with turkey and all the trimmings. For us, it ushers in the Christmas season. Our tree is up and the lights shine brightly. We gather family and agree that we are blessed indeed.

Here is our simple prayer: Dear God, we want to express gratitude of your time, not to ask anything from you, but just to say thank you for all we have.

Amen.

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SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with nonoverlapping regions. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, column and region contains the same numbers once only. The difficulty level is the 3 remaining (1 easiest, 5 hardest) out of 10 in total.

Concepcion Sudoku by Ben Ochoa

4								
		5			9			3
	1			8		5		
9				7			4	
	4					2		
6				9			5	
	7			1		8		
9		2			6			
							1	

Difficulty Level: ★★★★★ 1/5

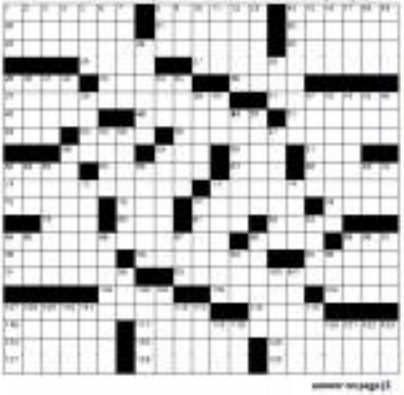
Answer to previous puzzle

2	6	5	3	1	4	7	9	8
3	1	8	6	9	5	2	4	7
9	4	7	8	2	3	6	1	5
8	7	3	4	6	9	5	2	1
1	5	9	2	3	7	4	8	6
4	2	6	1	5	8	9	3	7
7	3	1	9	8	6	3	5	2
5	9	4	7	4	2	1	6	3

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD / By Frank A. Longo

IN AT THE FINISH



answers on page 13

Letting my second wind blow

THE THING I feared most about retirement was to become responsible for, to improve into a useless creature. Can you imagine a retired army general at home staining silly at the ceiling, with his solution to fuck, communism or and no hardware fight?

I was done in retire at age 60. Not the way someone got you pound chorus by our board of directors. They fi really allowed me to go in 2007. I was 71 years old.

The wife of a friend whose husband just retired scanned me with about the confidence that suddenly afforded ex-CEOs and board chairs relive without a kingdom to rule. And that milky should not be taken aback if I see ex-CEO husband (that's me) wedded his managerial savvy by transferring in his home routines, such as cooking, pantry inventory, the sounding of chilled and frozen foods in the refrigerator.

The house are weighs for rest ranged according to his knowledge of space or location. In short, he becomes a hostess (me).

Wifey was also tipped off that retired men expected more uninspiring arrangement of their household and routine and declination in wearing the family. As set Wifey kept serving me my favorite food how Tagalog dishes generous lying, ensuing to lethargy at anchoring shod.

The only days of my retirement were a welcome reprieve. I had plenty of time to read my books, listen to Bach, Beethoven, The Beatles, Frank Sinatra and Barbra Streisand, and rack music of the 70s and 90s. I enjoyed in 1971 is the delicate sensuality of Audrey Hepburn, the sultry beauty of Sarah Vaughan and all of the crackerjack of Chad Eastwood in his "Dirty Harry" movies.

Then came the culture shock. The stoppage of my monthly salary was traumatic. The perks were all gone. Oh, my God! So-more representation allowances. No more five-star lunch meetings. So-more-but-crazy! No-no entertainment allowance. No more golf. No more acronyms in my business card. No more golf. No more golf. I've lost my turf. My underlings were all gone.

All these insecurities, however, were fleeting. At 71, I figured I

GUT FEEL

could still hope for my maximum longevity of at least 15 years, provided I took care of myself and had lesser evidence of no cardiologist, pulmonologist and rheumatologist.

I remembered my words and wrote. I did some evangelizing.

I came up with fantastic schemes aimed at a productive and proactive retirement. These concepts consisted of hobbies guaranteed for the second wind to blow my way. They were set for fit and user-friendly for me. Here are fantastic schemes for retirement:

Constantly stimulated

1. Read and write (unconditional). Read and brush up on literature, philosophy, theology and contemporary economic, social and political upheavals. At age 71, I have acquired the experience and maturity for magnanimity and enlightenment. Write! Writing enables me to craft and convey my ideas to an appreciative or constructive audience.

Either way, my mind is constantly stimulated. Browsing my web several times is an art in pursuit of excellence, a creative exercise full of agony and ecstasy. Deadlines will be my salvation.

2. Balanced and innumerable (psychological). I have to name my first of death. I need to be name of my eventual appointment with my immortality. Fidelity to my Catholic and my Iloilo in the moral imagination of St. Paul, St. Augustine and Benedict XVI enable me to grasp with clarity and contribute the beauty of my Christian faith. My final destiny is devoutly to be wished.

3. Plant and jog (physical). The middle memory of my youth can be restored by the wonderful of long walks, measuring and other gym equipment. Legs will be stronger, lungs will breathe easier. Come closer to nature. Dig a hole on earth and plant trees and raise the chess until they have fruits. Smell a flowers bed and smile. Be kind I know before prior eyes. Smell the flowers. I'm a child of mother nature.

4. Embrace family values (emotional). The family is the beginning and end of truth excellence on social and spiritual reward. Family is where I put my best foot forward, my name. Here, my achievements, the failures and joy. It's where human values are bequeathed or sacred inheritance. My wife, children and grandchildren are the source of my goodness of spirit and the comfort zone of my progeny. To love and be loved by my family are my treasures for life.

5. Travel domestic/away (spiritual). Don't be arrogant, egotistic and smart-alecky with your readers. Reasons, Master, reconciliation and the Eucharist are concerns not that allow us to surrender our will to the wonders of our faith. The rituals of Christianity give me the peace and assurance that we have a living interaction with our makers through the sun of all our sins. We can pray the rosary anytime, anyplace. Hold on to your beads. Silence is crutch on the road to heaven.

Retirement is like any other passage in life, both in the beginning, person of life and middle age, and our future years are just another rite of passage for self-discovery. Aging is never a diminution of the intellectual, psychological, emotional, physical and spiritual development of human. Life continues with new words, new dreams and new fulfillment. But like any promise or pity ask, we've gone make them happen.

Email Sgordiano@gmail.com.

Premium holiday getaways for cardholders

BDO Elite Credit Cards offers holiday getaway promo valid to be cardholders, featuring inclusive privileges in the country's top luxury destinations.

From now until year-end, cardholders will get to enjoy luxury accommodations at Bellaverde, Discovery Shores, El Nido Resorts, Miniloc Bay, Shangri-La's Boracay Resort & Spa, and Shangri-La's Mactan Resort & Spa. BDO Elite Cardholders including Business MasterCard and Business Credit Cardholders.

At Bellaverde Island Resort and Spa in Mactan Cebu, BDO Elite Cardholders are entitled to special privileges, booking reservations for a two-night stay will entitle them to two more nights, on the house. Inclusive of the two-for-two deal are luxurious accommodation, as well as complimentary access to Bellaverde's recreational facilities. The cardholder can avail of the exclusive privilege up to Dec. 31.

Discovery Shores in Boracay is offering an outstanding package for BDO Elite Cardholders for only P10,000 net per person. The package includes three days and two nights in a Junior Suite, inclusive of buffet breakfast, one chef's dinner, a 60-minute massage at Terra Well-ness Spa and Catchas round-trip boat and land transfers.

The Miniloc Bay Escape Package of P17,000 net per person offers a three-day, two-night stay with full-board meals, round-trip airport transfers, and complimentary access to the resort's recreational activities and facilities. Activities include kayaking, snorkeling, wind surfing, hiking, fishing, riding the zip line, island hopping, among others.

El Nido Resorts San Blanco, main special arrangements for cardholders from P34,000 to P40,000 net for two persons. At El Nido's Lagen, Miniloc and Apulit, the El Nido package for two persons for two nights' stay at a well-appointed accommodation includes round-trip boat transfers, full-board meals, island hopping tours, use of snorkeling gear and non-motorized outdoor sports equipment, and one hour massage.

BDO Elite Cardholders can take advantage of their preferred rates at Shangri-La's Boracay Resort & Spa. Until Dec. 22, the cardholder can stay for three days and two nights together with a partner and two kids below 12 years old at the exclusive rate of P23,000 net for a Deluxe room and P28,000 net for a Deluxe Ocean-view room. The deal includes daily buffet breakfast for two adults and two kids at Vintana, round-trip boat and speedboat transfers via Caticlan Airport, and Hennen head, neck and shoulder treatment for 30 minutes for two adults at Chi, The Spa.

Meanwhile, Shangri-La's Mactan Resort & Spa offers 20 percent savings on their available rates and 10 percent savings on Solar Stainless Package, as well as exclusive privileges at the spa and food and beverage outlets for BDO Elite Cardholders.

Visit www.bdo.com.ph or call BDO Customer Contact Center at 631-8000, or domestic toll-free at 1-800-10-6330000.

What it means to be men and women with and for others

By Fr. Tito Caluag
Contributor

"THE HEART is a Lonely Hunter," the 1968 film adaptation of Carson McCullers's celebrated first novel, starred Alan Arkin as the deaf-mute main character, John Singer.

Singer was one who spent his life taking care of others despite his handicap. As the priest puts it, his "silent kindness draws to him others broken in body and spirit."

But as he helps them and becomes instrumental in their healing, he experiences the loneliness of the "helping professions," as these schools he helps create, on the one, he both adore and somewhat "choose" so he discovers—or maybe the better word is, accepts—that "the heart is a lonely hunter."

This Sunday's Gospel, the Solemnity of Christ the King, the last Sunday of the liturgical year, presents to us the Parable of the Final Judgment. The parable beautifully portrays the singular virtue that unites us a ticket into God's Kingdom, service to others born out of love or compassion. It is our single service. It is service with great love. It is compassion.

Conscious choice

In 1998, my second year of work as principal in the Ateneo de Manila High School, I had to write a letter to our Superior General, Fr. Peter-Hans Kolvenbach. In this letter, I, on the name of our apostolates in the high school, (I was still a member of the Society of Jesus then,) shared the things I wrote to him about was how we were building on the "mission letters" from all the Jesuits.

In his three-page response to my letter, Fr. Kolvenbach smiled by saying that we must bear in mind that it was not only from... (no comma—as a person's "willingness to enter the chain of others to answer them in their need."

Compassionate service

This is living men and women with and for others, to be men and women of compassionate service; in the words of Fr. Kolvenbach, "to enter the chain of others to answer them in their needs."

As we end this liturgical year with the Solemnity of Christ the King, we are reminded that this King stated it simply and clearly: "It is mercy—compassion—I demand, not sacrifice."

Our ticket into his Kingdom is entering the door of many in our world, in our own Philippine society—to enter their chaos, the brokenness of their lives, kids who go to school without breakfast and after walking for kilometers came into classrooms that are poorly lit and ventilated, teachers whose own homes of overcrowding poverty and the chaos of their lives are hers—and they continue their journey with the hope that like them their students will also overcome their own challenges; minimum-wage earners who, day in and day out, struggle to make ends meet; and with dignity endure the hard work to give their families enough to eat, wear, furniture, fishermen, drivers, janitors, carpenters, factory workers—thousands, millions whose "chaos" we need to enter.

But this is just half the "burden" work. Where do we take them? Where do we lead them? The easiest part—perhaps—is doing the corporal works of mercy. The greater challenge is to make them more so, to love people into excellence and to give them back their life, dignity and soul.

Opinion

In the midst of the broadsides of the Arroyo saga, I asked the impromptu attendant who helped me load my groceries in to my car what he thought about the case. "Kahit ano ho man ang sasapitin ng dating pangulo, parehas po rin ang buhay namin," he said. (No matter what happens to that case our lives will remain the same.)

As I drove home and mulled over what the young man said, I recalled a story. Eleven years ago as we were preparing ourselves for metropolitical mass hugged the headliners. One of our col. leagues in the division told us that at the height of impeachment fever late 2000, he was to a coastal town south of Manila. While eating lunch in a rural carinderia, he asked the elderly lady serving him what the thought about the impeachment issue. The lady answered, "Kahit ganoon ano ang nakuhan ng gobyerno, pag ito natuloy ang buhay namin, wala rin mangyayari sa amin." (No matter who is in the seat of power, our life remains the same. Nothing will ever happen to us.)

Moved years apart and with a different cast of characters in the corridors of power, our people—the thousands, the millions for whom our leaders are supposed to be more/women, with and for others—still feel that they are forgotten.

Nothing much has changed? I leave you to think and reflect... all of us, but let us remember that in the end judgments will be upon us and the final words will not be ours, but the King's: "Come you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world... Depart from me, you accursed into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels."

Why older people shouldn't stop exercising

Seniors, take heed: if you don't use it, you'll really lose it, says this fitness expert

By Alex Y. Vergara

THE MORE you age, the more you should exercise. That is the gist of fitness professional and former beauty queen Lifestyle columnist Tess Jean's message to the country's growing number of senior citizens in their 60s, 70s and even 80s.

The benefits of keeping fit are, of course, legion—from maintaining strength and stamina to improving mental alertness and balance that would save you from unexpected and fatal falls later on. If you don't exercise, warns Jean, you will "deteriorate" prematurely. Put simply, if you don't use it, you lose it.

"Of course, even if you exercise and eat properly, you still age. But you will age the right way," she asserts.

It may seem like a no-brainer, but it's good old human nature at work when you wonder why old people avoid exercise when they need it most. It begins when people avoid what's hard for them, writes Jean in an e-mail interview.

Admittedly, everything, from reading to bending in order to tie your shoelaces, becomes harder as one ages. Exercise things you take for granted in your youth now often challenge your mind and body. But giving in to your urges to sit down or lie in bed are part of a vicious cycle that creates its own set of age-inflicted health-related problems, Jean says.

"If walking makes them tired, they avoid situations wherein they have to walk for relatively long periods," says Jean. "They start to avoid shopping or going to parks, and instead spend more time sitting down. The more they don't use their legs, the weaker and stiffer the muscles become. And the more unsteady and unbalanced they become, the more fearful they are of walking."

That's just the beginning. Pretty soon, Jean adds, most of their days are spent sitting or lying down. But they still have to walk short distances within the house. That's when part of the problem starts to manifest itself.

Immobility leading to complications

"One day, while just walking from their bed to the bathroom, they lose their balance and fall," she says. "The bones of old people don't heal well, so this often can lead to immobility, which brings with it all kinds of complications like depression, poor circulation, and pneumonia, to name a few. Complications can lead to premature death."

One of too much respect for senior citizens or simply because there are too many well-meaning caregivers in the family, Asians, including Filipinos, generally tend to baby their elderly by accommodating their every whim and need instead of making them comfortable. This endearing cultural trait can generate its own set of problems.

If kids or kids can't teach them to put on hair or hair socks and shoes, says Jean, what do family members do? Do it for them. Experts advise otherwise.

Rather, says Jean, our dear elderly should be trained and encouraged for them to become stronger. Everything, of course, should be done realistically and based on their diminished capacity to accomplish everyday tasks. But the truth is, one can still learn and adapt to new ways of doing things even at one age.

"They should be given exercises to make them flexible enough to reach their feet. If you continuously change their environments and lifestyles to adapt to the weaknesses, they will just get weaker. The new trend is cute for the elderly to be trained to become strong and flexible enough to be able to do activities of daily living with ease," Jean adds.

Then there's plain old attitude to deal with. Unlike in the previous scenario, this one is within the individual's control. Like in almost every endeavor in life, it pays to have a positive attitude as one adds another candle to his or her birthday cake. And Jean includes the right attitude toward exercise.

Attitude has a lot do with other aging gracefully or becoming a premature invalid. Even natural-born pessimists can still shift gears late in life. The choice is yours.

"Examples of the wrong attitude," says Jean, "are 'there's really nothing I can do about it. I'm just getting older,' 'Everyone gets weak when he or she gets older,' 'I can't exercise because I'm old' and 'exercise is only for the young.'"

Thinking and feeling young doesn't necessarily make one so, she says. "There's a big difference. Jean's point is, no one is too old when it comes to exercise and various ways of keeping fit.

"Examples of the right attitude," she adds, "are 'I am only as old as I feel,' 'If I can it, I won't lose it,' 'The older I am, the more I need to exercise.' The last seems I ever heard from an older person was 'I will only stop exercising when I'm dead.'"

Enter the benefits of exercise, it's no longer a question of when, but how. Next time, Tess Jean will give you a list of basic steps to kickstart your own training program.

Unique finds at Christmas bazaar

THE ATENEO Manila 1 Christmas Bazaar, now on its 15th year, will be held on Nov. 27, 8:30 a.m.–7 p.m., at the Ballroom of the Hotel Intercontinental, Ayala Avenue, Makati.

The bazaar is well known for its good mix of products—international goods, new and unique fashion creations, latest technology specialties from various regions and repeat products to indulge. Items priced at 50 pesos and below will only be a P100 at the Zonta Bazaar.

Great selections as designer brands from Kimberly Ortiz, Raven Millet, Monsoon, Helmut Lang, J. Crew, Chanel, DJ Prada, Lanvin, Burberry Prorsum, DKNY, Ann Taylor, Anne Klein, Oilbo, Bebe, Elie Tahari are available; along with gorgeous Filipiniana gowns from Cara Mercedes, Baby Ballesteros, New York fashion, fabulously designed jewelry and accessories from Elizabeth & Thistleville and Bliss both Campos, South Sea and Fresh Water Pearls, fashion clothes, unique handbags from Cebu, religious items, cakes, pastries, wines from Chile.

Proceeds from the Zonta Bazaar will go to the various service projects of Zonta Manila 1 such as Livelihood and Skills Training for the women of the 68-Unit Zonta Manila 1 Village, scholarship programs for 100 scholars and the support of the nutrition and health classes for 180 children.

The bazaar Organizing Committee is headed by Zonta 1 Manila 1 president, lawyer Daisy Arao; overall chair Dr. Ruby Perez Hizon; co-chairs Nida Lopez, Michelle Pascual, lawyer Gina Gonzales, Ruby de Jesus, Leny Cultra and Cynthia Cruz. Other members include Nona Te Lim, Poly Hernandez and Joel Reyes.

All major credit cards will be honored. Call 9920834, 0917-3772310, 7533407, 0928-5242629.

SEATED: Zonta Club of Manila bazaar overall chair Dr. Ruby Perez Hizon; co-chair Ruby de Jesus; secretary Cynthia Cruz; president, lawyer Daisy Arao. Standing: 1st vice president Nona Te Lim, 2nd vice president Poly Hernandez, co-chair Leny Cultra, co-chair Nida Lopez, assistant treasurer Joel Reyes, co-chair lawyer Gina Gonzales.

HOLIDAY SCENTS AT SM

Over the years, fragrances have inspired, intrigued, and aroused the senses. And with today's glossy advertisements steeped in liquid gold, iridescent, and silken draped materials, wearing the perfume transports one into a world of glamour, drama, and romance.

Make your loved ones feel special this Christmas by giving them a gift of the season's most delightful fragrances from SM. These come in beautifully packaged gift sets in which your loved one will find fragrance in many forms – as a perfume or eau de toilette for special occasions; and as refreshing moisturizers and body lotions for everyday use. Men's sets are like grooming kits with shaving balms, as well as shower gels. Check these all out at the Beauty Section of the SM Department Store.

Fragrance sets for Her

Ralph Lauren Romance. *This women's fragrance evokes the timeless essence of falling in love with its sensual essence of velvety woods, extravagant florals and seductive musk. The gift set includes a 50ml eau de parfum, body moisturizer and signature journal.*

Bvlgari Omnia Green Jade. *Notes of mandarin orange, peony and pistachio rouses a spirit of fresh floral emotion and embodies the natural, distinctive young woman. Gift set includes 40ml and 10ml eau de toilette and body lotion.*

Fragrance sets for Him

Acqua di Gio by Giorgio Armani. *The limited edition fragrance expresses marine notes, fruits, herbs and woods for the contemporary man. Gift set includes a 50ml eau de toilette spray, 75ml shower gel and after-shave balm.*

Polo Double Black by Ralph Lauren. *This scent is infused with spiced mango, espresso and rich woods for the edgy and daring man. Gift set includes 125ml and 40ml eau de toilette spray, aftershave gel, shower gel and World of Polo grooming kit.*

SM BEAUTY EXCLUSIVES

Burberry Body Eau de Parfum and Milk gift set for women.

L'Eau d'Issey Gold Absolute Eau de Parfum for Women by Issey Miyake.

L'Eau d'Issey Gold Absolute Eau de Toilette for Men by Issey Miyake.

Burberry Weekend Homme Kit with eau de toilette spray and shower gel.

Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Sexy. Stimulating. Sage. Survivor

SHARING THE VOICE OF AGE AND WISDOM

Contributing Editor Chit Roces

'White wine helped me survive cancer'

Former party girl Gigi Perez talks about her close brushes with grave illness, her past substance abuse, her faith—and her unorthodox way of coping

Lonnie Cruz

PRIVATE LIVES

WHY DID your first marriage fail?

Is that even a question? I accompanied Jhiroy Perez to his sorry

Why did the second marriage fail?

NEXT PAGE G2

When Jim met Gemma

'I should have simply said, 'Goodbye, see you in 45 years.' What were the chances?'

By Chit Roces

IT ALL HAPPENED in 1964 for Jim Thelen.

Only 19, G-8-A, blonde and bronzed from surfing in his native Long Beach, California, Jim was pushed—just summer for a solo beyond his devices.

He'd have been happy enough to land a job, any job that would hold the promise, however vague, of allowing him to declare independence from home. As it happened, he says, "I had really struck gold!"

Jim had been hired as a stage assistant at the Blue Mountain

www.gmi.ph

When Jim met Gemma

From page G1

"When I reminded my hand and she took it, I felt a different kind of energy. Uh, with me a decide, she was a beauty, but she emitted something more, something harder to define. I was mesmerized by the intelligence she projected...in flawless English. I could see she was making a spiritual connection with the judges, as well as the audience, but she was exceeding most of all with me! By then, I knew in my heart, she was the winner."

Gemma hadn't had to go through any preparatory course—as would be the case with later Filipina entries in international beauty contests...before flying to Long Beach. Like other young women of her background, she had been trained in social graces and deportment all her life, trained beyond anything a beauty contest might require.

Whenever asked, Gemma models for her poise, for instance, those constant reminders from elders to sit or stand up straight and to carry herself confidently.

"Is there any other way?" she says with a laugh. Further recalling repetitionals "Ate dongging sana's slippers or shoes."

About the spiritual connection Jim observed, she says, pressing a hand to her chest, "Well, I'm a very good girl at heart."

If she had undergone any crash course for Miss International, it had come after she had won—course mainly from her mother, the various Carmen Damores, Balajadia especially about hemlines and strategies to exhibit more or less cleavage or having to her new-created circumstance. Those things, Gemma concedes, "I had not been prepared for."

Before Gemma, Jim had not seen a Filipina—would not have been able even to point out the Republic of the Philippines on the map—but he just knew she would be. He recalls to amazing detail how she looked on coronation night, wearing a white form-fitting gown and white elbow-length opera gloves, "in stark contrast to her mahogany skin, her jet-black hair, her sparkling dark eyes.... I felt passionately proud as I lay the bouquet of red roses in her arms. She just took my breath away. I had never had that electric feeling."

The real world

Back in the real world, Jim went to college, and Gemma, after her year Jong reign, got married. Many years would pass before he would again get the old feeling she had planted innocently in his heart; it would be restored for another Filipina.

Gemma, it would seem, had set Jim up for Holly Taylor, a Dumaguete beauty. Jim and Holly had been working for rival travel companies when Jim was persuaded to join his company as a vice president, a move that occasioned her promotion to president. Holly, Jim is aware, "Does not fit the first case of sexual harassment in the workplace, happening before the term was even invented."]

When Jim first saw Holly, the old feeling was reignited, and this time, he says, it was perfectly permissible. They were married and moved to Seattle, Washington, to be near their children and to set up their own travel company.

Twenty-seven years later, in 2005, both their partners gone, they came home to her native Dumaguete City to retire and have since built their dream house by the beach, with eight rooms and slips for camping.

"Jim has done a bang-up job of adjusting to life here," says Holly. "In fact, he has adjusted better than me in many respects," although still "his body continues to battle the onslaughts of his...tropical wonder." Ethnically, he is Irish-Danish.

"Our culture sometimes is confused him, but he has embraced the country wholeheartedly, knows its history. He has even learned to point with his lips," adds Holly.

Jim, in the meantime, had not forgotten Gemma's soul, having made his home in her own country, may have even thought about her more often. Holly herself thought it might be a good idea for Jim to see her again, something that should set pieces of Heidi in arrange in a small social world where everybody knows everybody.

And last year, five years after the move, it all happened for Jim, again. Holly had gone to the eight arranges, the husband of old friend Gloc, Jesus Miguel Lacson.

There's no use Jesus Miguel does not know, that's according to him. At any rate, he would not allow himself to some share of the reputation.

Pareng Dolphy

Gloc, the events comedian Dolphy's name—up to a convenient—and Jesus Miguel responded, seemingly on reflex, "Hi *Pareng* Dolphy?" and proceeded to help along the impression he had given that they were pals, someone that Dolphy himself had arrived and was now standing right behind him, listening.

Second, Dolphy went along, and in fact expressly upheld the misrepresentation.

"Gemma? Of course, I know Gemma. We'll have her over one day." Jesus Miguel promises Holly, even pushing his luck, unsupporting that, for Holly, it was no more passing time—it had become a crusade.

His luck holding, Jesus Miguel in time found his connection—a son-in-law who happened to be a friend of Gemma's nephews...and proceeded to make the arrangements.

On the evening of the surprise reunion, Holly and Gemma approached Jim together from behind.

"Jim, there's someone here I'd like you to meet," announced Holly.

Gemma offered her memorable hand and, always gracious, said, "Jim, of course, I remember."

The two were left alone to talk all night.

"I do remember, but my recollection is hardly anything to match Jim's," Gemma reflects.

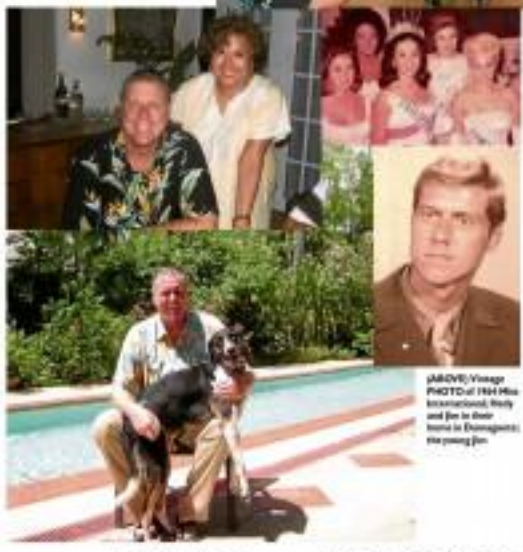
Indeed, as Jim himself recalls the moment to me, it's as if it happened only yesterday: "Minute of minutes, after 45 years I meet Gemma again! Still breathtakingly beautiful...the same grace, elegance and intelligence that I long ago admired—in some ways even more beautiful. What more could ever be possible."

The more he has learned about her, he says, the deeper his admiration has become. He has read her books, and her mother's, too, and is now "in awe of both."

"Of course, I'm flattered, what woman wouldn't be, to be loved pure and chaste (more after all these years!)" says Gemma, paraphrasing from the song "The Impossible Dream."

"When Fronnie and I parted that night, August 15, 1984," Jim says, "I should have simply said, 'Goodbye, Gemma, see you in 45 years.' What were the chances?"

I'd say, great. Jim, because you married someone like Holly.



'Miracle of miracles, after 45 years I meet Gemma again! Still breathtakingly beautiful...'

(ABOVE) Vintage PHOTO of 1984 Miss International; Holly and Jim in their home in Dumaguete; the young Jim

'White wine helped me survive cancer'

From page G1

It didn't fail. We were happily married for 23 years. We separated in 2007, but he moved only 500 meters away from my house. You know why? In 2008, when he retired and finally stopped working after 48 years, he started drinking hard. He used to walk to get his collection of paintings on. The whole house was filled with mine. All he had was a tiny house.

So he went for a walk and now a house for sale. He moved in the house and bought it, then and then, my broker from by one do everything he couldn't do while he was still working. It's a great arrangement. We're still very good friends.

You had a kidney transplant 11 months ago.

Yes, but now there's less pain. After the operation you revert to life. Before I couldn't even talk like that. My vocabulary comes and goes, too. My legs were dark blue and as big as Jabidoo. Before also, I had to nutrition, I was, usual cultured and salted. All the toxins were in my body. I couldn't even pee because of my kidney problem! And now, I pit as banded because they're very heavy also. So I don't drink anymore after 5 p.m.

Can you still have hard drinks? Alcohol?

I can still drink, yes. And now, guess what, I'm smoking, too. I normally roasted my tapbula-gan: "I have something to confess to you." I told her, "Hon, many I've been having pain from vasectitis, I started to smoke." My doctor said, "One stick a day long!" Sabi ko, "Fuzz, eh." Sabi nya, "Problema mo 'yan."

I never smoked cigarettes before in my life. I just picked it up now since it helps me. I'm a victim of nerves. Also, I take steroids.

I related you were in the ICU more than a year ago. I thought you were going to die. Are you thank your quality of life has been disturbed?

Yes! Now I take less drugs pa nga eh. If you think about all my substance abuse when I was younger, my quality of life has improved.

Do you think substance abuse had anything to do with your kidney failure?

No. Maybe just my genes. Substance abuse was always a part of my life, whether here or living abroad. In you remember the movie "Valley of the Dolls"? I used to get my barbituals in different drugstores across the Philippine General Hospital (PGH) without any prescriptions. Drugstores were an open door.

What advice would you give the younger ones now?

Do not take any of them! I seen all the way starting with marijuana, then downers, and worse end to forth, but I'm a survivor. We're all survivors, because the way we did it, we really did it. We never did it halfway. Drugs entertained me. I never saw it as bad.

Let's go back to your liver transplant. How difficult was that? Tell us about it.

I was getting edema. If I ate meats for a long time, my feet would grow big. If I ate a lot of salt, my face would swell. In 2009, my kidney failed. One doctor said I had to be dialyzed every day of my life. I lived him: I asked him, "What do you think I am? Civilized Sto. 75 years old?" Dialysis is only maintenance. It's for life. Instead I did a treatment using a dialysis for three times a week. I've been treated since I was married, so don't take care of all my organs. Eto (tapping top) ako sa'yo, 'day (laughter).

When did you start shopping for a kidney?

That term is the exact reason I didn't want a live donor! My nephew/niece also wanted a live donor, but I removed a red-eye. I didn't want to go around as if I was shopping, asking people, "Can I buy your kidney?" So once hospital parking lot, people actually sell organs on the street. They call out to people getting out of their cars. "Cara,

WHITE on

'Little Mermaid' musical in Meralco Theater

AT LARITE Productions presents "Sha rey's The Little Mermaid" runs Dec. 11 at Meralco Theater, Ortigas Center. Petey Rachelle Ann Go will play the lead role of Princess Ariel, while Erik Santos plays Prince Eric. It is directed by Gerard and Chuie Bermudez-Hontiveros. It tells the story of Ariel, King Triton's youngest daughter, who has always longed to be a part of the human world, so when the call was to fish. Ursula, guests her the opportunity to sprout legs and go after the heart of Prince Eric, who jumps at the opportunity, but with Ursula working against her, which need help from her friends and family if she is ever to see her dreams come true. Tickets are at P1,000, P1,350, P900, P1,100, P1,000 and P700. Call (02)1315 6481/87.

'Mamma Mia!' in CCP

The international musical "Mamma Mia!" which features songs by ABBA, will be staged in the main theater of CCP starting Jan. 24. Mitos Oropesa stars, accompanied by Sweep Beddercore and Filipina Strauss, helped in the development of the musical which features the songs "Dancing Queen," "Take a Chance on Me," "The Winner Takes It All."

The story unfolds on a Greek island paradise. On the eve of her wedding, a daughter's quest to discover the identity of her father brings these men from her mother's past back to the island they last visited 20 years ago.

The international tour started in 2004. "Mamma Mia!" has been seen by over two million people in countries such as China, Lithuania, Greece, Taiwan, Hungary, New Zealand, Serbia, Austria, Iris written by Catherine Johnson, directed by Phyllida Lloyd and choreographed by Anthony Van Laast. Presentative Mastercard Infinity, powered by Smart and Globe.

Tickets are at P150-P1,000, with 20-percent discount for senior citizens. Tickets are available at TicketWorld outlets and online, selected National Book Store branches and Robinsons Malls. Ayala Center and Trillanes Mall reserve booths.

Ticket World office at 8705 Ayala Ave., Suite 15F, Madrigal Bldg., Makati. Call (02)8896999, visit www.ticketworld.com.ph, www.mamma-mia.com.

Sun-sponsored awards night

Sun Bucksma, the corporate solutions arm of Sun Cellular, recently sponsored the 14th Philippine Insurers and Reinsurers Association (Pira) Stakeholders Convention & Awards Night held at Peninsula Hotel to show its support to entrepreneurs looking for the best mobile solutions for their businesses.

Pira awards is the first for the Philippine nonlife insurance market. Those are Celebrating Makisakit. The night highlighted companies and individuals who have given their time and talent for the benefit of others. Present were Sun Cellular's senior manager for Sun Business marketing Ruth Fernando, Philippine Insurers and Reinsurers Association general manager Mario Valdes and Insular Engineering Pioneer Insurance and Surety Corp. Assistant president Armand Perugan. Visit sunbiz.ne.ne .com.ph or call 3008116.

HAVE A CHOCO-CHERRY CHRISTMAS!

When it comes to special occasions that bring the family together, nothing is bigger and better than Christmas. Filipinos, known to keep close-knit family relations, spare no expense to make sure that every family gathering—even the simple weekend Christmas get-together to the greatest Noche Buena celebration—is filled with the most delicious and indulgent food. Yule is especially true for moms who see these occasions as opportunities to have sweet and delightful moments with their family. That's why they always find ways to make the season as memorable as possible, despite their busy schedules. One sure-fire way they do this is by serving family-favorite cakes that make the celebrations extraordinary. And, maybe the most special cake that comes on that is Red Ribbon's Black Forest.

At a glance, many will immediately fall love at first sight with Red Ribbon's Black Forest. From the generous strips of mouth-watering chocolate shavings on smooth cream on the sides, to the cream swirlies topped with plump and luscious cherries, the entire cake just screams delicious! With looks like this, it's no wonder that having Red Ribbon's Black Forest in any Christmas gathering definitely widens eyes, drop jaws and whets appetites. But, of course, the proof in a good cake is in the tasting and Red Ribbon's Black Forest will definitely satisfy anyone's craving for an extra special chocolate cake. Layered between the three-tiered, liquor-moistened chocolate pound cake is smooth cream filled with plenty of cherry bits. It's everyone's favorite chocolate taste with a surprising cherry twist! It's no wonder that Red Ribbon's Black Forest had become the holidays's best-selling product.

And, here's another surprise to delight Black Forest fans. Red Ribbon has recently made their Black Forest even better by making it chocolatier and still with the cherry twist everyone loves. Now, there's no excuse not to have a Black Forest this Christmas season.

Verona: Suntrust's 'City of Love' Takes Shape in Cavite

A Manila-based housing developer Suntrust Properties Inc. translates romance into reality in its newest community development in Silang, Cavite. Dubbed "La cittá di amore," which translates to "the city of love," the Verona project takes its inspiration from the Italian city of Verona, the setting of William Shakespeare's renowned story, "Romeo and Juliet."

"For its Filipino Verona development, like its namesake city, features structures and edifices that bring a sense of romance to the landscape. Casa di Giulietta, or "Juliet's House," is Suntrust's very own sales and marketing pavilion in the project. Its design takes cues from the house of the real life Capello family in Verona, which showcases a landscaped courtyard and a balcony made famous by the Shakespearean play.

Aside from the pavilion, a clock tower will emerge as another landmark in the community. Future residents will have the freedom to go up the tower and admire panoramic views of the southern Manila highlands in the north, Mt. Makiling, Laguna de Bay and the Sta. Rosa lowlands in the east, the mountains of Silang in the west, and the Tagaytay mountains in the south.

Resort-scenic aesthetic extends to its residential offerings. Suntrust offers six single-detached and duplex-type homes inspired by Italian Renaissance design. Homebuyers may choose from **Ordella** ("golden beautiful"), **Catalina** ("pure"), **Mariella** ("beloved"), **Amadea** ("to love God"), **Gisella** ("pledge") and **Florenza** ("blossoming"). These homes offer well-planned living spaces ranging from 60sqm to 90sqm in floor area, giving families enough room to grow.

As with all Suntrust community projects, Verona's residential areas are seamlessly integrated with a recreational block. Amenities in the community include an Italian-themed clubhouse, a saltwater pool and kiddie pool, fitness trail, swimming pool, basketball court and playhouses.

Homebuyers looking for affordability can find value for their money at Verona, with home packages starting at thirty seven. The community's residential offerings are about 40 to 45 percent more affordable than those in Tagaytay, a famous tourist destination a short drive away from Silang, and around 30 to 35 percent more affordable than those available in Sta. Rosa Laguna.

To date, the project is proving popular with urban-based families and those that have set their sights on owning a home between Metro Manila and Tagaytay. With its strategic location, Verona enjoys the benefits of a well-connected road network, close proximity to key destinations and a cool climate year-round that resembles that of Tagaytay.

For more information on the romantic Verona lifestyle, call (02)8888 9111 loc 19 or visit www.suntrust.com.ph.

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cherry mobile

'White wine helped me survive cancer'

From page 6B

Cruz: "Circumcision?"

So did you find yours to a surgeon?

I found my kidney from a Foundation called Human Organ Preservation Effort (HOPE). Then I transferred to National Kidney and Transplant Institute (NKTI), because if I stayed in my old hospital I would never get the transplant done and would forever be on the waiting list. NKTI is a great hospital. Everyone there is so efficient and professional. They have a good supply of kidneys. They do about six to nine transplants a day.

When is the course of your kidney?

It's from a 24-year-old woman from Bicol. She was brain dead from an accident when she arrived at the hospital.

How was the operation? Did you ever want to give up?

On the third day, nagsisi na ako sa kidney transplant. Ang sakit pala. And for just 24 hrs pero mamamatay ako! They did not give me enough painkillers. Now I'm okay. Di: having problems because of UTI, but it's fine. I just need to be very careful with infections, bacteria and viruses. I need to wear a mask always.

You are also a cancer survivor. You had cancer before you had problems with your kidneys?

Yes, I found out I had breast cancer in March 1998. I was 44. It was the first mammogram I ever took. Hindi pa mahilo. I couldn't feel it yet and that was good, because since you feel it that's too late.

What did you do when you found out?

I freaked out. I got home, called the husband of a classmate who was an OB-gyne and asked him if I should go for a second opinion. He told me no! That's the reason cancer get worse: waiting for a second opinion. Ang cancer-kasi parang bubuhu rin. If the doctor says remove it, then remove it. So the next day I was at Makati Med.

I remember you shaved your head. But then, You didn't even bother to cover your head with a headwrap.

No! I [was] it! I shaved my head for the chemotherapy and wore long earrings. I remember being at parties with my shaved head, drinking vodka. I used to ask my helper to buy wine every day at 11 a.m. White wine helped me survive cancer.

How did you survive everything else?

My doctors. And my faith. I have great faith in my doctors. I have to have great confidence in them. One is Dr. Nestor Agbayani. I will trust before him. I was supposed to have treatment in Houston, but I backed out at the last minute, thinking, "What if I don't like the way my doctor smells?" I embrace treatments. I'm very imbecile with health, but I'm lucky with treatments.

I am the type who will freak out if my doctor told me something. I don't like to hear, I'll just stay in a corner and cry. I'm even afraid of experiencing the pain of childbirth, although I'd like to experience it at least once.

Were you ever afraid of dying?

No. I never worried about it. I'm still not afraid of it.

FORTY-ONE years old at 21, Yupac Imbero cancer

What's your definition of Bucketlist?

I don't know. I think when you're buried, that's it, you're buried na.

Are you afraid of getting old?

No. But I don't want to get too old, like 80.

Is there still anything on your bucket list?

None. None at all.

A third husband, perhaps?

No! I'm tired na. Sanya sarap na ng buhay ko!

Don't you get lonely in this big house?

I don't get lonely. It's not even in my vocabulary. My eldest son, who is 20 years old, came back to take care of me. Also, my daughters from my several marriages come and visit. I don't want to bond anymore. Also, I realized that once they get older, children like spending for their parents. Jim, I get Louis Vuitton to death na pandalong Sonia here!

(Old) now

Gathering of 'balikbayan' and OFW families planned

THE EIGHTH annual Christmas show of Eulink Events highlights the Mega Balikbayan/OFW Expo and Travel Philippines Expo on Dec. 9-11 at the Megatrade Hall, SM Megamall.

It gathers the biggest number of OFW/balikbayan families in Metro Manila as well as General Luna, and offers not only business opportunities but also Philippine travel destinations for vacationing and reuniting OFWs and their families.

"December is a great time to offer sensible business opportunity packages as well as vacation and travel packages in one fellow Filipinos, especially the balikbayans and vacationing OFWs and their families," said Mitch D. Ballesteros, chief executive officer and founder of Eulink Events.

Over P500,000 worth of cash and gift certificates and gift packs await OFW's and balikbayan families who will register and join the Grand Family Days and come shows such as Pinoy Family Cancel Bets, Family Trivia, Hunt, Registration can be done via www.eulinkevents.com or www.megabalikbayanexpo.com.ph.

Health and wellness items, food samplings, product giveaways, finance management seminars, legal advisory, retirement options advisory and business solutions advisory will be available during the three-day event.

Accommodations are also open for the Grand Homecoming OFWs and Balikbayans, awarding will be on Dec. 9 at Megatrade Hall 2, SM Megamall. Winners will receive, surprises and gift certificates from sponsors.

For inquiries on participation and sponsorship, call or (632)8687, 8687439, 8227788, e-mail events@eulinkevents.com, eulinkballoons@inbalconnection.com, or text 0920-924-2532, 0926-985-1278.

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

'Tis the season to be jolly and merry—and fat!

'TIS THE season to be jolly and merry and nice! And who better to jumpstart the holiday festivities than the Swatch Queen herself, Virgie L. Ramos, who chose the auspiciously numbered date, 11.11.11, to get the party going.

Given the number of eleven floating around, I decided to arrive at the party at exactly 11:11:11 PM! I guess that deserves the award for the most expensively numbered entrance to a party! And, of course, hopefully, it means a lot of good luck all around!

The Virgie's home is always the perfect party place. The hall-sized-waiting-for-football-season! was transformed into a chill-a-rama, complete with lights, DJ and sumptuous food. The bar was fully stocked with every drink from Matt & Chandon, to Santiburi with three coffee beans for good luck, to chilled Grey Goose Vodka, to Mionetto and even Ice Reindeer to keep the group in a jolly spirit.

A gigantic, glittering, silvery white Christmas tree was to-waard the ceiling, and beside it was a multilayered birthday cake for golden boy Russell Santiago. He modified smile and thick, dark hair make Russell look much younger than he really is.

Chronicling the party was intense blogger Girlie Bello. She is one of the most well-connected people I know, able to upload to Facebook and share on Twitter as an event unfolds.

Asec Carlos, the phrenos of the Philippines' Twitter scene, snapped a pic of the two of us, and instantly shared it with her almost two million followers. It's scary to think that Asec has more readers than majority of our local newspapers. She feels enjoyed a happy first with wonderful friend Kara Alikpala, who arrived with her sweet daughter Arianna.

Swatch Chick Derek Ramsay asked me, "What's on your 'wristsense' list?" and I was tempted to reply "you," but my Assumption upbringing got the better of me, and so I said, "I'm dying to get that new snow globe Swatch." Derek is very sweet. He made sure I got one that night.

It was also a night of new things. The Swatch Touch is a true innovation, with no knobs

TO BE CONTINUED ON

TESSA!
Tessa Prieto-Valdes

It's scary to think Anne Curtis has more Twitter readers than majority of our local newspapers

KARA Magnanao dAlikpala and daughter Arianna; Sia Quinsay; Sea Princess

OLD FRIENDS Russell Santiago, Jana Rufino and Randy Santiago

It's not just technology.
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LEFT: Mazzano, Virgie Ramos, Derek Ramsay, Anne Curtis

ARTYDAY Jay Bonnell Santiago with Swatch Philippines CDO James Lewin, Shirley Robinson, Michelle Singson, Sheila Ramos and Sandy Uy

PICTURE PERFECT Lea, Hin and Rob Chiva

'Tis the season to be jolly and merry—and fat!

Front page 6-B

to adjust time. Just touch the screen and voilà! You can adjust the time, and even have two time zones, an alarm and timer. It's great for traveling.

New Swatch run

Speaking the Swatch Touch was Chris Tia, the new Swatch man. I learned that this basketball star is also a piano man and a good golfer. Is this guy perfect or what?

I bumped into Chris again at the 6SE Cup at Black Mesh Golf Club. This golf tourney is fantastic. Every golfer got a Samsung Galaxy mobile phone as a giveaway. That's what makes it a classic.

Chris told me that he joined the Adidas Ring of the Road (ROTR) at The Fort last month. The successful ROTR had thousands of participants vying for the Adidas SoulBoost Ride. ROTR BOU owners from here, the race turned up a number of celebrities, with the likes of Robi Domingo, Rich Kuzelka and Karylle participating. But runner Ruvilson Fernandez was also there, and so was Esquire magazine cover girl Isa Calma do.

The ROTR's 26.8 category is the most distinctive, signature distance, with winners from all other asian countries flown in to taste their flags. As always, the race management was Cebu A, with www.runcebu.com in charge. Check www.adidasph.multiboxsol.com for full details.

All the hard-core runners under our feet guilty about the lack of training I have for my new destination marathon, Rome. I should jumpstart my training using the Adidas miCoach virtual training system. It's the best way to imagine myself in a better run.

It is particularly difficult to adhere to a training regime when I seem to be doing so much eating. 'Tis the season to be jolly and merry and fat, is it not?

Winning dishes

And so it came to pass that I ended up at the Kartini Café Al fresco last week (www.kartini.ca.tl.com, tel. 4834586). The new dining experience is found within the landscaped gardens of Mahaneg Event Center.

Kartini's menu is a creative fusion of favorites and delectable dishes from all around Australasia. Marbled, Australian wagyu rib-eye steaks as well as Roasted Iberian Chicken with herbs and spices are some of the winning dishes at the opening.

Kartini Café also offers Canton's first ice cream, the scrumptious ice cream with interesting flavors. Owner Paco Magsaysay told me it's the only ice cream shop in the city that has live ice cream demos that is packed by its sweet dairy fares, as quantities are very limited. They can also deliver fresh milk.

Café owner Nina Mahrar has transformed the garden courtyard into a dining space with an Asian theme, using Balinese furniture and artworks of National Artist Abdulmari Imao Imao. Nina's menu showcases Kartini's distinct offering of herbs and health promoting plants grown from its on-site garden.

Dishes like organic basil, malunggay pesto pasta and pan-cuneca pasta are deliciously healthy. Dessert lovers' juices are also available. Kartini Café is a great addition to the dining choices in the Alabang area.

Newbie stories

As a Makati girl, I don't get around to Alabang too often, but when I do make the trip, my car radio is tuned to Radio High 105.9 FM. It's a newbie station, set up by impresario Branson Samson, the radio maven who was also behind the successful Cruise 88.1 and Jazz 91.1.

I was pleasantly surprised when Francis invited me to the launch of their new digs. 105.9 FM. The event was an exclusive, one-night-only performance by Grammy winner Chris Brown at the Greenhill 3 Pavilion Mall. Sheesh is the largest selling music artist, a master interpreter of the best dance dervishes. His performance at the launch was indicative of the quality that Premium brings to his venues.

Radio High 105.9 FM has a unique say line: "Just for everyone." Well, that may be so, but when I'm stuck in traffic and just want to relax, it is certainly for me.

Follow Dean on Twitter @deanalcides or e-mail her at sugarbowl@inquirer.com.ph.

CHRIS Tiu on the piano and Anne Curtis on vocals, performing "Silent Night"

MC CHIEN and Billy Crawford do the soap dance.

TRUMPET master Chris Boni and Radio High CEO Francis Lorenzo

LIANA Bag, Chris Boni

KARTINI Cafe Alfresco launch: Mike Kasner of Virgin Voice, Rose Prince Victoria, Jennifer Tiburcio, Kartini Cafe Alfresco manager Ka Operations Ria Mahrar, Paco Magsaysay of Carmen's Best, Nina Mahrar, singer-TV host Leeguo Basabas

GARY Valentino with Radio High 105.9 founder Francis Lorenzo and Manabat EVP Al Panlilio

BAMBI Perez of Concertino and Bob Sewell of Tickets world fame Chris Boni.

CHRIS Boni harmonizes with violinist Yelena Popovian onstage at Radio High's "Chris Boni Live in Manila!" concert

CHRIS Boni and jazz singer Lisa Fischer wowing the crowd at the Greenhill 3 Fusion Mall

THE COMPLETE SWATCH FAMILY Chris Tia, Anne Curtis, Derek Ramsay, Marian Gaddiel, Swatch Philippines creative director Ravell Santiago, Swatch Philippines president Virgie Ramos, Billy Crawford, Luis Manzano, Christian Bautista and John Lloyd Cruz

SEA PRINCESS and progress Anne Curtis

PAL HUKO Jimmy Bautista, Marichi and Alex Prieto and Sandy Prieto-Romualdez

KARTINI Cafe Alfresco owners Joe and Nina Mahrar, Sea Princess, manager Ka Mahrar and Carmen's Best ice cream owner Paco Magsaysay

MVP CUP players Sea Princess and Chris Tia

MVP CUP golfers Lei Lopiterno, JP Reis, Bobby Chuidian, Paul Chuatoc, Ron Tupargus (standing)

MVP CUP flight mates Ray Chng of Accenture, Bandoa Gordon of ePLDT, Sea Princess and Petra Garcia.

ADIDAS Philippines country manager Mabel Pino

BOYLSON Fernandez

WILL Devaughn

IZA CALZADO, Ria delaCruz and Karylle

ROBI Domingo

RICH Hardin with Yanni Andres, Barcelonaer

SMOKING Duo with former fashion model Mallory Carlos, TV host Pinamitha Barredo and former beauty queen Rizza Benitez

ARMOR Villaflor, Eastwing Dias, Jessy Mendiola, Empress Schuck, Ms Universe 2011 3rd Runner-Up Shamcey Supsup, Julia Montes, Kathryn Bernardo and Joseph Marco

CHARMING BEAUTIES. Ms. Pilipinas 2011 winners Janine Tugonon, Czarina Gotiaoco and Isabela Manjon

Music and gift-giving accompany giant Christmas tree lighting

COCA-COLA Cuenon and Araneta Cuenon Giant Tree Lighting

LAST NOV 12, the Araneta Coliseum parking lot was again magically transformed into one merry Christmasville, as people came together to usher in a happy holiday season at the Coca-Cola Christmas Caravan and the annual Araneta Center Giant Tree Lighting.

A secretive mobile home feast was whipped up by taste celebrities who served guests with barbecue, pizza, ice cream, cotton candy, even pan bumbong and lechon.

In the spirit of Christmas, celebrities from different stations came together as one whole happy family: Coca-Cola ambassadors Kathryn Bernardo, Joseph Marco, Julia Montes and Erichong Lee, with ABS-CBN young idols Empress Schuck, Jessy Mendiola and Aiko Villaflor along with GMA stars Rita Daval, Bianca Manalo, Steven Silva, Sef Cadayona, Dina Montefalco, Andrea Torres and Joshua Dionisio.

Throughout the caravan, they encouraged guests to donate whatever they can for Manila Boystown, making the day even more worthwhile.

The heart of the occasion remained the traditional lighting of Araneta Center's giant Christmas tree, which was made grander and even more goodlooking this year. Rob Cuenon Manching at almost 100 ft., this year's tree is bedecked with over 10,000 lights and hundreds of stars and Coca-Cola Christmas balls, with huge ribbons and colorful gift boxes at accents. A special count-and-save inspiring fireworks display followed once the tree was fully lit and glowing.

A dance concert featuring young stars and the hottest Pinoy bands of today, Sugod Band and Spongecola, followed.

Throughout the night, Coca-Cola ambassadors also gave away special raffle prizes, big red boxes filled with surprising Christmas treats, also being given away to the Coca-Cola Christmas Box Surprise Promo, along with Beach gift certificates, cool gadgets like iPods, digital cameras, PSPs, Wii and even a whopping P1 million!

And online? Open caps of Coke, Coke Zero, Sprite or Royal Tru-Orange to exchange for a raffle coupon, which may be claimed at participating sari-sari stores, public market stalls, Coke sales offices and Coke dealers; redemption centers until Dec. 30 only. Text in the code to the coupon to join the electronic raffle. Coca-Cola Christmas Boxes will be delivered right to the winners' doorsteps. *See posters and visit www.coke.com.ph for more details.*

For more updates and highlights about the caravan, visit the Coca-Cola fan page on Facebook or go to www.coke.com.ph.

UNITED to celebrate a merry Christmastime. Coca-Cola Philippines marketing director Rashiba Tahan-Abdulla and Guillermo Aparri, president, Coca-Cola Philippines, with Kapuso idols Rich Bernal, Steven Silva, Ryza Cenon and Sef Cadayona

ARANETA Group of Companies vice-chair Judy Araneta-Roxas, Quezon City Mayor Herbert Bautista and Rep. Bolet Bunal

HOME Kapuso stars shine bright as the crowd.

Bringing food, travel and good company together

MARIA ROMERO is a woman with discerning taste in food, art and music. This is evident on entering the home she shares with husband Mikee and their four children. She helms not one but three companies, and stays active in charity work and humanitarian causes, all while fulfilling duties as spouse and parent.

"Busy, busy, busy," she says, describing a typical day. Saturdays, however, are clear. "It is a full-time job to be a mother and wife."

Despite numerous meetings that take up much of her day, the environmental homemaker spends dinner with the family. The eldest of six siblings in a tight-knit family understands the value of quality time.

A consistent member of the dean's list throughout college at De La Salle-University, she graduated with a double degree in Economics and Financial Institution Management. Her accomplishments since then for successful ventures in the fields of retail, food and, most recently, hospitality with Snack Food and Restrooms.

Located along the developing stretch of Katipunan Avenue in Quezon City, some parts of the country's biggest colleges and universities, the mixed-use property boasts of a 72-room boutique hotel, 46 resort-high-end modern residences and retail spaces.

"Snack is about giving Filipinos an experience of world-class service at really affordable prices," Sheila says.

"While food is essential to a dinner party, there are some other things that complete the experience," she says. Sheila and her husband genuinely enjoy sharing their many blessings with people they care about. "I believe great food is best enjoyed in the company of family and friends. What matters is interesting conversations, and new acquaintances that can blossom to lasting friendships," she says.

More on Mikee and Sheila Romero in the November issue of Lifestyle Asia, now available on the stands.

More on Mikee and Sheila Romero in November issue of Lifestyle Asia

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the Inquirer, PO. Box 2255, Makati Central Post Office 1260 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and are run on a first-come, first-served basis.

CHUA-LIM

Dexter Chua, son of Anna Lim Chua and Cristino Lim, daughter of Delia Lim, on Dec. 3 at the Church of San Agustin, Intramuros, Manila.

Edo Pamela designed the bride's gown in semi-fitted satin. The bodice skirt is made of satin somacker fashioned into rose patterns and embellished with frosted-cut organdy pailletes and faux pearls. A 10-meter double-width veil of illusion tulle to be held by floral shaped Swarovski crystals completes the ensemble.

The female entourage will wear draped chiffon gowns in sunflower yellow, orange, turquoise and emerald green.

Reception will be held at Gloria Maris Hotel's Tai Pantheon Cavendish, San Jose.

AMADO-DE PUE

Nimrod Melchor Amado III will wed Angelina Dee on Dec. 17 at the San Agustin Church, Intramuros, Manila. A grand reception will follow at the Intramuros Ballroom. Diamond Hotel, Roxas Boulevard, Manila. The silver and turquoise, mid-to-romance-themed event will be coordinated by Events Specialist Alex Justice of Events One.

The bride will wear Edgar Almonzeno.

SEMUDIO-ONG

Francis Semudio, eldest son of Wenceslao and Elsie Semudio will exchange vows with Annabelle Ong, daughter of Frederick and Lily Ong on Nov. 27 at Immaculate de San Antonio Parish, Mckinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati. Reception will be held at the Grand Ballroom of Sofitel Hotel, CCP Complex Pasay City. Annabelle will wear a creation from Mike while the groom will wear a specially designed suit from fashion designer JC Buendia. The wedding photos courtesy of Pat Ito, hair and make-up by Dinsey Pacheco.

WHAT'S UP

Christmas party packages

THIS CHRISTMAS, Pan Pacific Manila offers party-goers and revelers buffet menu selections with unlimited round of non-alcoholic drinks, with amenities such as special Christmas table centerpieces, complimentary stage backdrop, audio visual equipment, mobile sound system with fog machine, gift certificates for overnight stay in a Superior room with buffet breakfast for two persons at the Pacific Lounge, and many more. Rate starts at P180,000 for the first 100 persons. Validated December 31, 2011. Terms and conditions apply. Visit panpacific.com or call (63 2) 5380788. Pan Pacific Manila is at M. Adriatico corner Gen. Malvar Streets, Malate, Manila.

IN THIS ISSUE
■ For these women of certain age, writing is 'therapy without the atrocious costs' /E1

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Lifestyle's fearless survey: Who has the best abs?

DEREK rocks brooding abs and Full-blooded White Short Sleeves.

For a lot of women, Derek Ramsay is king

By Pam Pastor

WHILE American women were debating over whether or not Ryan Gosling should have been declared this year's Sexiest Man Alive by People Magazine instead of Bradley Cooper, Inquirer Lifestyle was busy swimming in sexiness, too.

We just got curious and tried to find out who Filipinas think has the best abs in the country. A good respite from all that bad news, don't you think?

We asked women across ages and backgrounds what they thought. Some answers were predictable, others were unexpected.

Our finding: When it comes to abs, for a lot of girls, actor, host and fratrick endorser Derek Ramsay is king.

"Philippine Volcanoes." —Viel Rondez, NR practitioner

"My husband, syempre o siyempre" —Anne Ge Chua, PR & HR manager

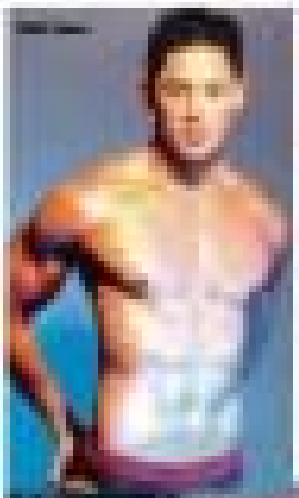
"Derek Ramsay! Hands down!" —Annie Ringor, managing director, Bridges

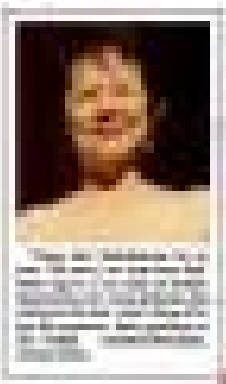
"I can't decide between Piolo or Derek!" —Brilla Aquino, PR

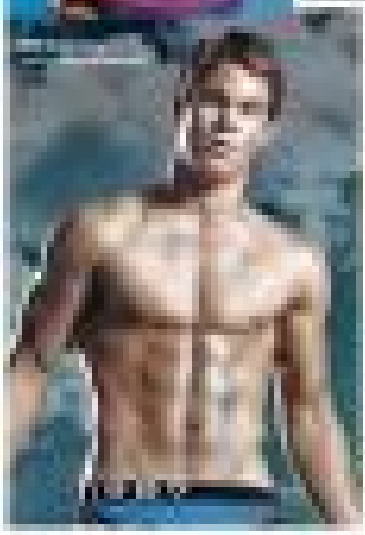
"Derek Ramsay has the best abs because he does not stop to work hard to flaunt them. He may not win a technical contest on the best body and the ideal measurements, but I would pick him for how decent and sexy-looking he is without really trying. He's macho, but somehow he maintains some refinements and gentlemanliness which is why he gets my vote." —Joy Bautista-Ilo, PR

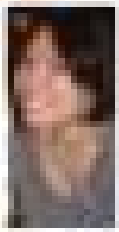
LIFESTYLE/G

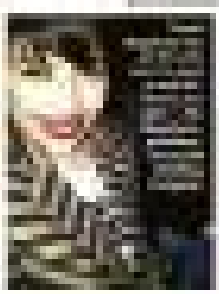
Lifestyle's fearless survey: Who has the best abs?

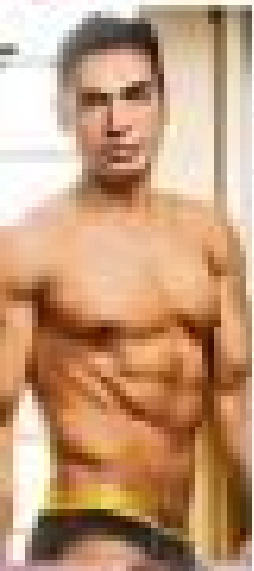


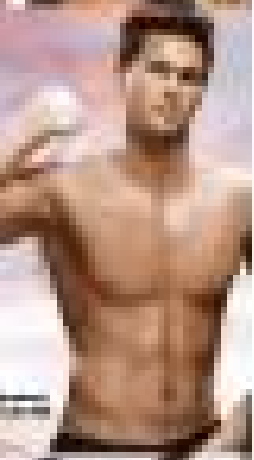


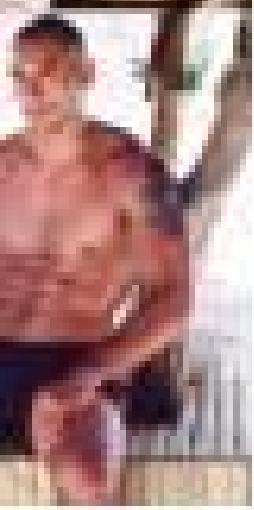












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Sparkle and shine in this metallic mini skirt and jewelled top from the Modern Princess line

Holiday elegance for girls from the Modern Princess line

Ivy Filmer for standard sizes of the blood ruffled long sleeved top paired with a tiered royal blue skirt by Modern Princess

Tot-sized fashion Modern Princess dress

Champagne-colored flowing skirt paired with a lace top from the Mod ern Princess collection

The SM Kids Collection at Philippine Fashion Week

PARK AVENUE ROYALTY

Your kids will stand out during the holidays in fashion royalty style with clothes from the SM Kids Holiday 2011 collection.

Recently showcased at Philippine Fashion Week at the SMX Convention Center, the collection is inspired by uptown New York with pretty silk dresses and dapper suits for the modern day Park Avenue inspired princes and princesses.

They will love the storybook charm of dream dresses from the Modern Princess collection, and dapper suits from the Modern Prince line.

From the SMX Convention Center runways, the PFW Style Council will visit SM stores this November to give tips on holiday styling for kids. Participants have a chance to be seen on the SM Kids Fashion Facebook site. For more information, visit SM Kids Fashion on Facebook.

The Modern Prince and Modern Princess Holiday Collection is available at the Children's Wear Department of all SM stores.

Modern dressing of a classic look from the Modern Prince collection

Regular kids don't cutsie! polo, khaki trousers, and tennis, and grey socks from the Modern Prince collection

The total look charm of a striped black hoodie set a prim polo worn with short shorts

A Low cropped jersey vest the Modern Prince outfit

An elegant holiday suit with allegiance from the Modern Prince collection

Classics always - no-nigle overalls, a white polo and sneakers paired with the mini-hipsters

IN THIS ISSUE
■ 'White wine helped me survive cancer' /G1

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Ladies Who Lunch

Thelma Sioson San Juan

Maricris Zobel says 'no' to fillers—and 'yes' to feel-good causes

She's helping make the fundraising UST Christmas Concert Gala the hottest ticket in town

"MY DAUGHTER is 30 years old. Why will I try to look 30 years old?"

That question made a lot of sense, and it was asked over dinner by model Maricris Zobel who, while she may not look 30 years old, doesn't look old enough to be the mother of a 30-year-old, either. She was standing in front of a mirror at the time, and was talking to herself about "fillers."

Years (Ahh, who looked on TV years that night like she's suddenly aged a couple of decades (the Hannibal Lecter-like facial head contraption didn't help), our talk turned to the fillers and collagen controversy that seems to have engulfed women of various ages in the country.

Apparently Maricris, one of the most glamorous and beautiful Filipinas power-lay (when she was a favorite muse of Percy Montaez) and today isn't one of them.

"The filler issue is the worst invention today," she said, referring to the cosmetic procedure of injecting "fillers" into the face to cover up laugh lines or lift sagging jaws or puff up cheek bones. When overdone, it produces a lumpy face—the features look good in photos, live up close, in the flesh, you look like a forgot Picasso.

"And all those women are beginning to

MARICRIS/G2

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"DE-FLOODED" and disinfected, Sofitel's lobby shows no sign of having been hit by a huge typhoon in September.

WAVES from Manila Bay were higher than these coconut trees during Typhoon "Pedring."

THE FLOOD created an "infinity pool" that extended all the way to the bay from the poolside.

How Sofitel made it through the rain

By Irene C. Perez

TYPHOON "PEDRING" on Sept. 27 came on the same month two years after the traumatic storm "Ondoy." Howling winds and heavy rains left the stretch of Roxas Boulevard impassable. A meter-high floodwater inside a five-star luxury hotel and waves higher than coconut trees freaked people out, even Filipinos who are used to typhoons, but not Goran Aleks, general manager of Sofitel Philippine Plaza Manila.

He'd reminder here the 33-year-old German remained calm and collected while Boulevarder filled the ground floor of the 609-room resort hotel. He credited two things for his composure: experience and training.

Aleks has been in the hospitality industry for 15 years, he has assumed different posts in Sofitel hotels in Europe and Asia-Pacific. He was general manager of Sofitel Magic Lagoon Resort & Spa Hanoi when the hotel-breaking tsunami hit Thailand in 2004. He moved to the Philippines in 2008.

Sofitel's business is both its strength and weakness. The Plaza hotel on the ground floor features an evening pool with a mini bridge; the lobster floor that are even cocktails and barbecue by night time; wellness establishments Le Spa, Philippe Totdjman Le Salon and Zen Institute, three bars (patty club), and Spiral, the hotel's famous restaurant popular for its magnificent food.

The Manila Bay sun be viewed from the poolside which is dotted with cabanas, trees and lush foliage, and offers a spectacular view of the sunset, a scene on for guests. During "Pedring," the same bay splashed angry waters in the Pita Plaza, leaving nothing visible but the tip of the bridge.

Christine del Carmen, Sofitel PR manager, said the water got in around 8 a.m. on Sept. 27, a Tuesday. It was the first time in the hotel's 35 years of operation that it got flooded. Sofitel was then 64 percent full, with over 600 guests checked in.

"It was a strange confluence of factors," Del Carmen said. "There was high tide, low pressure area and super strong winds. The water came in from the bay, and they were not even surfing waves, but valley passages ones. This didn't happen even during Ondoy."

Aleks quickly ordered the evacuation of guests that morning. Power was shut off because water had already reached electrical outlets. There was no electricity, water, working elevator, cell phone signal and Internet. Communication systems were down in Metro Manila. Lanes was mainly affected by a blackout. It was a scene out of a scary Armageddon movie.

He assigned five staff members on all levels to help guests out. Since there were no elevators, luggage had to be carried down on foot, and that had to be saved were transferred upstairs. It was a blessing that the guests, a mix of Filipinos and foreigners, were very cooperative.

"It was happening really fast, and we're glad the guests were obedient," Del Carmen said. "We followed them in neighboring hotels. When there were full, some were booked in Makati. Everything was done in three hours."

Voluntary cleanup

It was still drizzly, dark and damp all over Metro Manila by the next day, Sept. 28. Hotel staff members could have stayed at home, but some of them came to Golf, set as early as 7 a.m. including Aleks and Del Carmen. It was cleanup time.

There were no rooms, no elevator. It was a total necessity for the 250 employees to show up armed with rubber boots and gloves and take care of the mess. This is a new and welcome sight for Aleks, who has worked in Thailand, Germany and Australia.

"This is not common in other countries," he said. "Very few Filipino hotel staff behave like it's their house."

"I never see any new any country like the Philippines," he added. "Filipinos are so resilient. Perhaps it's because so many things happened in this country in so many years."

The cleanup was even fun, with the staff singing and dancing as they fixed what "Pedring" had devastated. There was still no electricity but the energy of the employees more than made up for it.

"It was not a big deal, it happened, but once it subsides they started to clean up. People usually ask, 'Do I will have a job? Am I getting paid next month? What would happen to me? Here, it's a family."

Aleks and his team pretty close to his 610 plus staff as he spends most of his time with them in the hotel, even during weekends, Christmas, New Year. He finds it easy to connect with them given there are "no barriers in language and religion." He cites as an appreciation dinner for the staff after the cleanup was done.

"Filipinos are genuinely welcoming people. They want to know who you are, what you do. An income of an employee supports six to seven family members. Sometimes I give 15 hours their family as well," he said. "I understand the way they care about a family member, and I see that's also how they care about the guests."

Reopening

Sofitel was prepared when "Pedring" hit. Sandbags were set, a big net was installed to keep debris off, but as Aleks stressed, the world is changing, and there isn't a place in the world where anyone could guarantee a hundred percent safety.

"Once Ms Makati, and you cannot move Makati. Another thing with Sofitel, We are located in security and safety and we have a seasoned crisis team, natural."

Rehabilitation took place after assessing the damages, such as broken windows and broken equipment. The hotel was closed to the public on Oct. 1 that were just opened last year were in as bit and are still cleaned. The company is still assessing the amount of damage in pesos. Thankfully, most of the functions were okay, like the lounge chairs by the pool, cables and chairs.

Professional cleaners disinfected the plates and made sure them were no toxic chemicals. After several days, flowers, decorations and music were reinstalled. The hotel was reopened Oct. 10 after several dry runs (once without guests, and another with invited regular patrons). Walking through the lobby, there's hardly a sign that it was under a calamity, save for vases missing glass panels by the pool area which is now temporarily covered with white plywood.

Guests still enjoy the sunset by the poolside, and it's hard to imagine how the area had become an "instant infinity pool" with shape swimming around during the storm.

Spiral's buffet and wellness establishments were reopened on Nov. 15, while Spiral, the "heart of Sofitel," as Del Carmen put it, will be relaunched mid-next year.

"We took this chance to re-conceive Sofitel which has been in the works since last year. Those who have discount vouchers from 'groupon' (online group-buying sites) can have it refunded or extended," she added.

Despite who have heard of the flooding not stay away from Sofitel, but Aleks said that it was an "accident tourist" that was handled well. Before "Pedring," the head of trade from Sofitel Australia came in for inspection. There are also "secret customers" who visit and examine the accommodations, fire units and emergency plans.

He is thankful that affected guests had stayed and chose to reschedule weddings and conferences on other days.

"Sofitel is used to these challenging situations, and Filipinos are a fantastic people," said Aleks. "They know this is not something to dwell on. I wouldn't wish to have another typhoon but using the cooperation was a fascinating experience for me."

Visit http://www.sofitel.com

GORAN Aleks, general manager of Sofitel Philippine Plaza Manila, credits not only his experience but also his hotel's quick recovery to training. He was in Thailand when the tsunami hit in 2004; after "Pedring," he assisted his Filipino staff for their speed in rehabilitating the hotel in its premises to restore.

At the height of 'Pedring,' waves from Manila Bay broke through the hotel and flooded it. But the hotel leadership and staff were not daunted

The tyranny of beauty

By Margie David Collins
Contributor

BOTH SAGE and gray subsets of middle age, why is it that women aren't allowed to get wrinkly and grow old gracefully? Aging, it is an inevitable part of the human process, a mediocrely being stopped is its cruelty, a disease that requires immediate nonsecretarial attention.

"You look hurts more," said Woody Allen. "You get more indigestion. Your eyesight isn't good, you need a hearing aid. You find yourself getting older. I would advise you not to do it if you can avoid it." Okay Sir, it's not much fun.

When we spout utopia like "old men look distinctive" and "old women are sad, shriveled old prunes who look like battered bags," we become part of a conspiracy of tyranny that distorts reality and makes women selling slaves and victims of their own insecurities.

We look at images of attractive women—doing stars, finding motivations—and want to look like them, but can't. These are airbrushed images that create an ideal of beauty impossible to attain without divine digital manipulation.

Since time you went to torture yourself with these dirty pictures, have Vogue in one hand and the National Enquirer in the other. In the unforgiving glare of sunlight, without industrial amounts of makeup and a fresh injection of fillers, look, do they really look like that, in real life?

There is nothing more by about women as of a certain age swimming on to each other about their beauty routines: Me, Beauty is a very big business—$200 billion on anti-aging treatments alone—because we want to be lied to

Inc. Women will always sit in judgment of other women. What? Just wait and wasn't tight hours of sleep? See? Stack reloads of Evian? Hell's bells: what happens we have become, stinking open for each other.

As we look around furiously at 'friends' with bulked-faces for telltale scars behind the ears, eyebrows that don't move, stare at bee-stung lips, jiggling cheeks, the pair of hard globes bursting out of push-up bras.

Crumpled bed

In a narcissistic age, where we expose ourselves on our social, we judge others by their appearances. We silently vet us in condescension when we see someone looking like a crumpled bed...slightly worse for wear.

Thanks to accessible pornography, the unmistakable representations of ours, the ubiquitous Barbie-fashionistas of boundlessness babes by media, and the unbearable weight of peer pressure, exhibitions of acres of flesh and sapiosexual researchers and scientists who connect these goodness with increasingly enchanted ingredients.

Hope in a jar

We are blinded by science—pro-vaporolides, ventricle hallowness, hyaluronic acid—that feeds us with wildly unrealistic visions. We know they promise more than they deliver, but we buy them regardless. Hope in a jar.

"The idea created by many of these products is that collagen (substance holding skin cells together, giving skin plumpness and elasticity; it declines with age) can get through the upper layer of skin into the dermis and transform our natural collagen is preposterous. The simple fact is that it's a huge molecule and skin is designed to keep such substances out," said pharmacologist-professor Richard Guy in The Times.

The good news is science advances all the time. Nanoparticles...Ah! more chinese! than a strand of human hair...are being tried by leading cosmetic companies to facilitate the penetration of active ingredients into the skin and improve the effectiveness of serums and moisturizers.

The bad news is the pull of gravity is an oppressive constant. Aging is an unstoppable ride. While spirits may remain young, bodies grow old. Invasions of time are etched in lines on our faces, hands, body. We are reminded from the front lines of our lives. Your face is a map of your life's account.

The pressure to look evergreen, to stay youthful and fuckable in sum, cannot always be borne with just good genes and human. So what do we do? We cleanse, tone and moisturize; we firm; we prolifer lasered; tonal buttocked; eyebrows threaded; legs waxed; teeth whitened; hair and eyelashes extended.

We go go from the broken diet, to the Atkins, the Omni Cleanse, the cabbage to the last diet. Always hungry, obsessing about food, with nothing to show for it except bad breath. With precious few hours in a day we dye, tone, shave, shape, epilate, depilate, strip, bronze and pluck.

We spend so much time obsessing ourselves that time literally flies out the window. We could be running corporations, writing blockbusters, inventing new galaxies, and enjoying the shade of a leafy tree in the time it takes us to pod and poke, prune and pamper ourselves. Aren't you tired already?

The celebrated photographer Brigitte Lacombe has built a profession out of peering closely at female faces. "To me, physical beauty is not enough," she said. "It's not interesting. You want someone who will make you laugh, cry and intelligent, who will have some contribution to bring, not just a look."

Why should we be intimidated when we could be at ease? Liberate and love yourself. Find your confidence and groovy. Develop your personality. Take up a hobby, a cause. You will change the consistency or other people's lives in small but generous increments of kindness. Irone the line somewhere.

Jewelry inspired by Roman festival of Saturnalia

FOR THEIR upcoming show at Firma on Nov. 23, jewelry designers Haralyn Lagkamon and Jonnalyn Ly Mabini-Ravena turned to Saturnalia, the popular ancient festival, as inspiration for their holiday collections.

Saturnalia is based on that one day in a year when the earth is at its bleakest, unchirped in its immobile night as the sun stands frozen at a complete halt in the heavens. It is on this shrouded day, centuries ago, that the ancient Romans looked to the mighty god Saturn, to bring back the light of their life-giving sun.

As if an uninvented prayer, the proceeding days would begin to bring the light back into the world: as the sun journeyed once more towards the earth. The ancient Romans welcomed this rebirth of the sun with unbridled revelry and a week-long period of merrymaking called "Saturnalia."

A mock king was crowned amongst the people to take charge of the grand festival, to crown merrymaking and debauchery ensued in his command. Townsmen, young and old, took to the streets to declare celebration. Friends visited friends. Gifts were exchanged. Grudges were forgotten and wars were put on temporary hold. Trees were decorated, and homes were festooned with greenery. Lavish masquerades were held as processions of people with concealed faces and silly hats danced through the packed lanes of the city. Roles were swapped: in an amusing game of reversal as masters kowed down to their lowly slaves.

Design mavens Marilyn Lagdameo and Haloki Ravena bring the aura of this joyous celebration to their new creations.

Lagdameo, known for his exceptional jewelry inspired by antique amulets and just-like-pure cocktail, takes true to her unique technique of seamlessly marrying the contemporary and the historical.

Her set plays on the ideas of dark and light, observed through her pharki; per mostly tasteful, choice of materials and color combinations. The collection features rings, necklaces, bracelets, cuffs, pendants, brooches and earrings done in several traditional jewelry styles. Her pieces exhibit shades of deep red, yellow, dark green and caramel, and reveal gemstone techniques, hammered finishes and pattern repeats.

Ravena's creations bear trademark ethno-luxe, and minimal, in approach for her Saturnalia collection. Her pieces are all set in silver and make use of faceted precious stones such as multicolored sapphires, cubes, aquamarines and citrine.

For this set, Ravena chose to create two collections. The first emphasized colors to represent the powerful Roman goddesses of the ancient time of Saturnalia. The second exhibits more muted tones and delicate textures and the cold, harsh reality that winter, and its lack of sunlight, brings.

The collections will be unveiled at Firma, Greenbelt 5, on Wednesday, Nov. 23. Previewed together with Greenbelt at Ayala Malls, the show runs until Dec. 7.

For inquiries, please contact Firma, G/F, Greenbelt 2, Ayala Center, Makati City; tel. 7574008/8913-7888/849; e-mail firma@yahoo.com

Maricris Zobel says 'no' . . .

From page J1

look alike," a guest piped up, backing Maricris' declarations. "They all have this XXX (cosmetic surgeon's name) look."

"They say that when they have it done, some can't stop and get addicted to it," another said.

Then still another recalled a hilarious encounter with one such filler "addict" who makes a lifelong mission up because of matrons. "(He/she) has done so much on that face that when (he/she) opened the door to let us in, wearing an apron at that, I didn't recognize (him/her). I thought it was the help. So I said, 'Imagine me (in)stead of the hostess.' Of course, (he/she) danced at the door on my face. So I rang the bell again."

When the laughter died down, yet another dinner guest recalled how he, posing as his shoddy features—how happy, not sufficient eating—was offered a "filler" job. "No, thank you, I said."

No fruits for dessert

There it was time for dessert and we ordered fresh fruits.

"Actually you shouldn't take fruits for dessert," Maricris told the table. "Take fruits in the morning."

I didn't realize until then how much of a nuisance I was for the dinner table eating. It's fruits and yogurt and flaxseed oil for her at breakfast—good for the health and figure, she said.

In fact, aside from Maricris, many of the beautiful women we know who have kept their looks through the years—and gracefully at that—have one things in common: they don't overindulge, strict they have, and they have well-defined, sensible—and happy—eating habits.

The past few weeks, I've dined with Gil da Cordova Fernando, who, in her 80s, remains one of the youthful and vibrant women around, and Mimpy Bravo Hernandez, the former Miss Universe and Bernal's sweetheart as all about generating old, and whose time and energy are spent working for causes she believes in, like the ballet Philippines and building a local audience for ballet.

Ballet Philippines will stage the nine-scene setting "Swan Song" in November 2012 with Alice Reyes-Nolan Cayabyab ballet masked that advanced the scenes of Bob Landeros and Lea Salonga in the 90s. Reyes will fly home from the US to choreograph it.)

These are women who have purposeful interests—and excitements—at 60 their days.

I remember Gilda, over lunch, expressing dismay with a celebrity, who's not even in her mid-20s but who had her face altered somewhat. "There's nothing wrong with that face at all," she said. "She's still young. What happens when those girls grow old?"

Dear sweetheart Mimmy, Margie also cringed when the topic turned to the "Filler" craze.

Last week's dinner with Maricris, however, wasn't about beauty at all. The mother of five, whose oldest, Bianca, is getting married in January, is busy this time of year with preparations for the annual UST Christmas Concert Gala on Dec. 1.

The UST Christmas Concert Gala not only kicks off the holiday celebrations in Metro Manila, it has also become one of the biggest fundraisers in the country, thanks to Maricris and her two friends who introduced her to the cause—the supermodel banker Andrew Gan and noted interior designer Jonathan Mairi.

Ninth year

Along with Maricris, the Gala's chair is Fr Isidro C. Abaño, OP, executive director for the UST Quadricentennial Activities and Highlights.

This is the Gala Concert's ninth year—also the quadricentennial year of UST, Asia's oldest university.

The Concert held in the UST chapel has become a tradition and the past four years it has been turned by the Zobel-Gan-Mairi trio, with Fr Abaño, into a fundraiser for the heritage conservation efforts of UST.

"Not many know perhaps that that campus is home to Chinese Phi-Il Heritage sites," said Jonathan. "There's the main building, the 'plaza mayor' or quadrangle, and the iconic arch."

To open this year's concert, the newly restored carillon bells will ring.

Just like in the celebration, Christmas season will fill the Concert Gala—famed as the Santisimo Rosario church), rendered by the university's renowned choral orchestra—the UST Singers, Coro Sumaine and Lirenglion 'Hand Ensemble. The vocalists are Rachel Gorodine, Sisi Sing Hee, Nenen Espina, Thea Perez, Nonoi Sison, Leonel de la Cruz, Eugene de los Santos, Ronan Perez and Andrew Fernando. Paul Abenstein Santos will conduct the UST Symphony Orchestra.

Every year, early December, the Christmas Concert Gala is the hottest ticket in town. Tickets are out sold, donations are given instead to the UST heritage conservation efforts and the Conservatory of Music's Scholarship Fund.

The event is by invitation: Manila's A-listers will then have to wait to be invited.

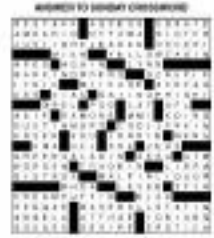
One high-profile self-proclaimed bill hoarder, it is said, promised to donate—if he could be photographed alongside Maricris Zobel. He wasn't.

That was just one turn-off. Another way this society media who kept on asking questions like each woman gown which designer made her gown. That ruined all the games.

By the way, this year's invite is not strictly long gown. If you read your carder, note that it just states "formal"—if you have your bride.

Fr. Isidro Abaño, Maricris Zobel, Andrew Gan and Jonathan Mairi at a previous UST Christmas Gala Concert

ANSWERS TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD



Herbal Medicine Industry Gets a Shot in the Arm

By Aldee Joshua Cada

The Philippine herbal medicine champions' uniting efforts have born fruits.

The Philippine herbal industry, has indeed come a long way. And much of its progress could be attributed to the scientific study being diligently done by the people behind the National Integrated Research Program on Medicinal Plants or NIPROMP.

The NIPROMP group started back in the mid-1970s and has been consistently striving to provide Filipinos with safe, effective, good quality and affordable health care products specifically, in the form of herbal medicines. In that time, the government was spending for primary health care drugs which amounted to about P150 million annually for common illnesses such as colds, cough, fever etc. in fact, for cough alone, it was coughing out P60 million.

NIPROMP is a multidisciplinary integrated group of scientists drawn from the Academe and other Research institutions. NIPROMP with the support of the UP System obtained funding from the National Science and Technology Authority (now the Department of Science and Technology).

NIPROMP's mission has always been to make available inexpensive medicines of proven therapeutic efficacy to Filipinos and to study medicinal plants in depth.

Each member of NIPROMP and their respective institutions is part of a seamless process that leads to the development of herbal medicine. There are various research phases, from Selection of Priority Plants, Mass Propagation, Drug Formulation, Pre-clinical to Clinical trials. The products would stem from the University of the Philippines College of Agriculture or UP Los Baños (UPLB) where priority plants were studied and mass propagated. UPLB is the only source of experimental materials that are being studied by members of NIPROMP. They also supplied the seedling to the four manufacturing plants of the Department of Health in Catabato, Davao, Tadeloan and Tuguegarao. The succeeding researches by the pool efficacy of herbal medicines consisted of short and long term toxicity studies and mutagenicity testing to animals while quality of the herbal medicine formulation is established, by the quality control tests of the Department of Health's Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) and confirmed in the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The efficacy of the herbal medicine is validated through determination of potency using standardized bioassay procedures. The clinical trials conducted on herbal medicine maintains the standard clinical requirements of the "Good Clinical Practice Guidelines and World Health Organization's Declaration of Helsinki. Presently, there are nine new herbal medicinal plants in the Philippines approved by the DOH. Aside from these is the National Drug Formulary, the other herbal medicines are 1) Ampalaya (Momordica charantia L. or bitter gourd) 2) Sambong (Blumea balsamifera L. or garlic), 3) Sayabas (Psidium guajava L. or guava), 4) Niyog-niyogan (Quisqualis indica L.) 5) Akapulko (Cassia alata L.).

Moreover, the DOH endorsed these medicinal plants through its traditional health program, which is a result of the passage of Republic Act No. 8423, otherwise known as "Traditional Medicine Act of 1997." By DAMU on December 7, 1997. The TAMA law act is called, is response to the people's need for traditional and alternative health care products, services and technologies that are proven safe and effective, and at the same time affordable and accessible.

The TAMA law also created the Philippine Institute of Traditional and Alternative Health Care (PITAHC), which is mandated to encourage scientific research on and development of traditional and alternative health care systems that have direct impact on public health care policy process and advocate the use of traditional, alternative, preventive and promotive health care modalities that have been proven safe, effective, cost-effective, and consistent with government standards on medical practice.

The medicinal plant product registered with the Philippine National Drug Formulary include Mayabo tonic, sagunot edible and spicy, Sambong tablet, Tawang gubat tablet, and Yerba buena tablet. This means that the technology to make these available pharmaceutical dosage forms such as tablet, syrup and herbal tea oil, ready have developed.

NIPROMP has already accomplished its first mission. The group now is geared towards its second mission: to "discover better cures" and to support scientific research and the Filipino drug industry with the objective of studying medicinal plants in depth, extract their active ingredients, determine their actions and uses, synthesize them chemically if possible, manufacture locally and export the pure drug and the pharmaceutical preparation for world consumption.

NIPROMP is hoping that it would be able to continue their multidisciplinary research for safer medicines such as anti-tuberculosis, anti-malaria, etc through sustained and sufficient funding to ensure its continued viability.

The commitment and perseverance of NIPROMP is a proof of the Filipinos' ingenuity. There is truly nothing more fulfilling than becoming the wealth of nature to provide the Filipinos better and healthier lives.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emerie G. Velarde

NOEL DISCOVERY BAZAAR

CUNETA: Goodbye after 23 years

Sharon Cuneta leaving ABS-CBN

By Allan Policarpio
Contributor

SHARON CUNETA is leaving her longtime home studio, ABS-CBN, after 23 years to consider to the aggressive and revitalized TV5.

The singer/actress/TV host, known as the "Megastar," whose contract as a Kapamilya talent expires this year, will officially move to the Kapatid network in January 2012, according to highly placed sources.

On Nov. 5, she taped the final episode of her show, "Sharon at Home," which airs on the Lifestyle Network on SkyCable, an ABS-CBN subsidiary.

Last October, Star Cinema announced that Cuneta was to be the star of the movie "Call Center" which stars Gerald Anderson and Maja Salvador, but the project was allegedly shelved.

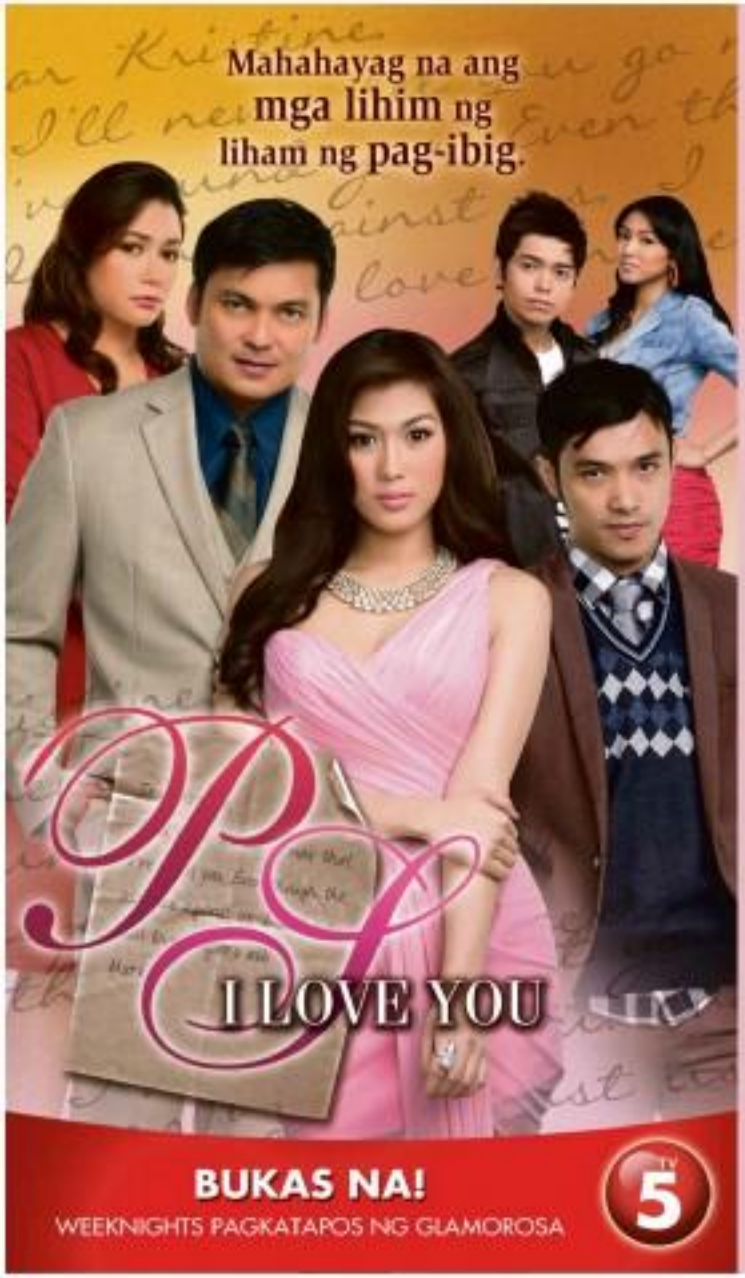
Cuneta is not in ABS-CBN's Christmas season station ID this year.

No confirmation is immediately forthcoming from executives of either ABS-CBN or TV5. ABS-CBN corporate communications head Bing Garcia explained that the network bosses have yet to give him the go-signal to talk about Cuneta's exit.

TV5 creative and entertainment production head Perci Intalan was tentative at best: "We can't say anything yet. We'd gladly announce it, if over it happens... There were a lot of questions and comments [from the public], especially on Twitter, after we launched the TV adaptation of one of Sharon's most popular films, 'PS. I Love You.' We would love to work with Sharon, but ... we all have to wait and see."

In an earlier interview, Intalan admitted that there had been exploratory

SHARON/ A2



'PS I Love You' returns as TV5 primetime dramaserye

The love story that charmed fans at the '90s cinema and on the silverscreen hit on TV. PS I Love You, the movie that further placed Gabby Concepcion and Sharon Cuneta to stardom, is given new life as it premieres on TV5's newest primetime dramaserye on November 21.

TV5's PS I Love You is a sequel to the original '90s movie. Mark (Gabby Concepcion) and Kristine (now portrayed by Dina Bonnevie) didn't have a happy ending to their love story after all, and they now live separate lives with families of their own. What they thought was their greatest love was left behind, but as fate would have it, their paths would cross again, and the memories they wish to bury resurface.

The dramaserye takes off from Mark and Kristine's supposed wedding day, where the latter doesn't show up. Mark finds out later that Kristine accepted the marriage proposal of a wealthy businessman.

Mark tries to move on from his sad fate and works his way to become a billionaire investment banker. Kristine, on the other hand, is happily married with two kids, but her picture-perfect life crumbles upon the death of her husband. As their businesses dwindle and their family stands on the brink of bankruptcy, Kristine's daughter Andrea (Alex Gonzaga) steps up to save their remaining livelihood. Despite the tremendous responsibility she has to bear for her family, she derives motivation and inspiration from Jason (Enzo Tipuzano), a struggling musician who loves her with all his heart.

Upon the advice of their relatives, Andrea decides to sell their company to an investor who would be interested in resurrecting the business. Unknown to Andrea, the man interested in buying their company is Mark, an old flame of her mother and her one great love.

This starts another chapter in the lives of Mark and Kristine. As love blossoms between their children – Mark's son Paul (AJ Mclluich) and Kristine's other daughter Candice (Andrea Louise) – they move heaven and earth to keep them apart. However, Paul and Candice struggle to fight for the love despite all odds.

Completing the cast of PS I Love You are Candy Pangilinan, Christa Dinglasan, Michael Flores, Say Alonzo, Jayson Parker, Melissa Mendez, Nikki Sandoval, Al Chris Galicia, Sara Polverini and Engge Domingo, with the special participation of Lloyd Samartino.

Directed by Robert Quebral and Dante Lazaro, PS I Love You is co-produced by TV5 and Viva TV. It airs Monday to Friday after Glamorosa starting November 21 on TV5.

Indie spirit rules in Cinemanila awards

Lav Diaz, Mes de Guzman top tilt, along with int'l luminaries

By Rayvi Sol Ongo Jr.

THE CINEMANILA International Film Festival, now on its lucky 13th year, capped a hectic week of screenings with a laid-back awards ceremony on Thursday night at the Southside High Street Activity Center in Taguig.

Filipino filmmakers Lav Diaz and Mes de Guzman led the festival roll, along with other independent cinema luminaries from all over the world.

Apart from indie stalwarts, industry newcomers were also given the chance to shine at the awards night.

At the short film category, Carlo Obispo's "1:23" won the Best Short and Isinlalad Bestial prizes. The jury commended "1:23" for its "poetry, social commentary and courage to pull the rug from under our feet."

BOOBEN! Ramona, Lino Brocka grand prize winner in the Digital Lokal section, for "Babae sa Hangin"

Special mention went to "Sanagbae Me Tatoo" by Vicsal Villanueva.

In the Digital Lokal derby, De Guzman won Best Director and Best Film for "Sa Kanto ng Llap at Lupa."

First-time digital filmmaker Angelica Bautista clinched the Lino Brocka grand jury prize for "Babae sa Hangin."

Bautista told the bayanan that the award was special because every 10 grim filmmaker looks up to Brocka. "So, it almost overwhelmed me. I almost couldn't say a word when I received it. We already had meetings and were all set. But he died (in a car crash) before we could work together."

Bautista dedicated his trophy to artist Waway Lizardo Jimeno and the indigenous tribe Talaandig of Mount Kitanglad in Bukidnon, Mindanao. "This film took three years to make," he said.

There were two winners in the special mention prize, Southeast Asian Films category: "Bromley" by Benito Bautista, another debuting Filipino director, shared the honor with "The Mirror Never Lies" by Indonesian's Kamila Andini.

Bautista described the honor as "inspiring."

The Best Film in the SEA section went to "Golden Slumber" by Caroline (Su's Dirty) Chen.

Prizes aside, it was Lav Diaz figured prominently in the international section. His six-hour film "Siglo ng Hagulgol," which premiered at the Venice five last September, won the Cinemanila grand jury prize. The jury hailed Diaz's film as "an intimate and epic meditation on Filipino society ... transcending."

Diaz was unable to attend the ceremonies as he was shooting his next film in the Ifugao region. De Guzman, who attended the fest's opening, was already back home in Nueva Vizcaya when the fest ended.

Other winners in the international section are: Best Director, Turkey's Pelin Bilge Ceylan for "Three Upon a Time in Anatolia"; Best Actor, Romania's George Pistereanu for "El Movil vs Whistle, / Whistle!"; Best Actress, South Korea's Jeong-hie Yun for "Pieta" and Lino Brocka grand prize, Italy's Enzo Spaziali for "Escape."

All in all, festival founding director Tikoy Aguila was pleased with this year's Cinemanila.

"We hope to make a permanent home in Taguig, especially since new entertainment are going to be built in the city," Aguilar said.

E-mail: bayanmail@bayan.com

STARS at "Boundary" (from left), Raymond Bagatsing, Edwin Montero and Rocco Lucero, applaud their film's triumph (above).

TIKOY Aguila) hands Rica Arevalo's Cinema achievement award to Tootsie Rendle, the actress' friend.

ITALO Spinelli, Lino Brocka grand prize winner in the International competition, for "Escape"

Happy birthdays!

TODAY: Bo Derek turns 55; Jr. turns 67; Miley Cyrus, 19. Sean Young, 52; Joe Biden, 69.

Nov. 21: Former Beatles drummer Pete Best turns 70; Katherine Heigl, 33; Sarah Orkland Aberdeen, 68; Shark, 44.

Nov. 22: Robert Vaughn turns 79; Tony Gilkison, 71; Jamie Lee Curtis, 52; Muriel Hemingway, 59; Scarlett Johansson, 27.

Nov. 23: Bruce Hornsby turns 57; Mike Myers, 48; Nov. 24: Thanksgiving; Ben Stiller, 46.

Nov. 25: Amy Grant turns 51; Jill Hennessy, 43; Christina Applegate, 40.

Nov. 26: Tina Turner turns 72; Natasha Bedingfield, 30.

AP

Chris Messina, a storytelling vessel

By Ellen M. Fulambarit
Correspondent

ACTOR CHRIS Messina believes that his career is moving "slowly, and probably at (his) best tempo."

Messina, 37, started acting in the mid-1990s and appeared on episodes of "Law and Order" and "Six Feet Under" (the movie film credits include roles in Woody Allen's "Vicky Cristina Barcelona" and Steve Ephron's "Julie and Julia." He recently appeared in one episode of the acclaimed legal drama "Damages," starring Glenn Close and Rose Byrne.

Describing the creative and production team of "Damages" as "super-terrific, smart guys," Messina said he was pitched a character after he made a specific request. "I told them that I had an interest in being on their show as a lawyer who rang a suit," and he," Messina told the bayanan in a phone interview. "I was looking to do some other stuff. They pitched me the character Chris ended."

Messina revealed that Chris Sanders was a soldier who served in Afghanistan and later, a lawyer, before joining the firm. The role required a lot of research. "I wanted to try my best to portray a soldier as truthful, as possible," he said. "I felt pressure, a responsibility to get it as right as I could."

Working on the show initially left Messina "It's very uneven-sounding because they're a family, not only on the show, but in the creators and the crew. They've worked together for three years so you want to be welcomed to their family. But I was lucky because Glenn Close and Rose Byrne and all the [others] were very welcoming."

Messina finds it "interesting" that his acting jobs sometimes require him to appear to become "vessels" to tell stories, whether on TV or film. He also appreciates the growing number of acclaimed and consistently well-realized programs. "It's just a different time," he said. "It's the golden age of television. I think there's mostly better stuff on TV than's coming out of the movies. When you're an independent film, I think it's more adventure."

His current Close, known and praised for her film roles, successfully made the transition a few years ago. She was an endearing and empowering presence behind the scenes, according to Messina. "She's amazing," he said. "She has a love for acting that I really admire. I would always ask her questions about films and plays she did. She's very kind. She's a real booster of that show. She represents the kind of work ethic is that is required on that show."

The father of two young kids sometimes feels "exhausted and beat up" after portraying his "Damages" character. But being part of this acclaimed ensemble has an important lesson: "It forces—you constantly have to remind yourself to step out to home," Messina said. "The writing of the show happens so quickly that new pages are coming at you. So I guess one of the biggest lessons was to embrace the style, structure and fast pace of it all and not to get frustrated and angry. I like to prepare; I could prepare for years and still not feel ready. On the show, you never felt ready but you have to embrace that."

Messina hopes to portray a different character someday one that he can develop for a couple of years. He also considers directing a "very interesting" option. For now, he's grateful for his opportunities, even if he's not as immediately recognizable as some actors.

"I feel like I'm the guy that people often stop at the street and say 'I think I know you' or they know I'm an actor but they don't know where I'm from. There's something great about that in a way. I don't want people following me with cameras. I don't want that kind of life."

The fourth season of "Damages" premieres on Dec. 9, 10:00 p.m., on AXN Beyond.

CHRIS Messina in "Damages"

Environmental docu

Host Richard Gershon braves jungle rapids and fishes for bacon at one in "Dinner," his fourth environmental documentary for CNN News and Public Affairs.

Gutsiest episode is which day at an army barrage only to catch three pieces of fish in the docu that tackles nature's problems, airing tonight at 9:45 on CNN 7.

Dating world

ETC explores the world of dating in the new sitcom "Friends with Benefits," airing Fridays at 9 p.m.

Bret Hyun Hanover and Stacy Haiduk (Bobbie) are best friends searching for "Mr. and Ms. Right," who have developed the habit of turning to each other as the end of the day for sweet, emotional and physical support.

The new comedy "2 Broke Girls," which premieres on Nov. 23 at 8 p.m., tells the story of two girls Max (Kat Dennings) and Caroline (Beth Behrs) from very different backgrounds who wind up working together in a Brooklyn diner where an unlikely friendship strikes up between them.

Elusive prey

"Naturals: Life On The Line" returns for its third season, airing Mondays at 11 p.m., beginning Nov. 28, with encores on Tuesdays at 4 p.m. on Discovery Channel.

The show enters the high-risk world of bow fishing's off-shoot Tuberculosis, which is all in search of one of the world's most elusive prey.

The Grand Banks off Newfoundland and Georges Bank off the Gulf of Maine hold a valuable commodity: swordfish.

Moviegoers account the would quesuel into movie Decision during Friday's opening of the movie "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn part 1".

In the Philippines, long line started to form as early as 8 a.m. at most SM Cinemas and the lines never ceased until closing time.

"It's spectacular!" says Christmas Cajucom, Business Unit Head of SM Cinema. She reports that as of 2PM (Press time) November 16, Breaking Dawn's box-office figures were 20% higher than "Transformers: Dark of the Moon"...

KENNY Puddicombe holds marlin swordfish in "Discovery: Life On The Line."

RAY Domingo and Beth Bebey in "2 Broke Girls"

Sharon Cuneta...

From page K3

talks between TVS and Dawn, adding that Viva Entertainment's boss Vic del Rosario was helping broker a deal. "Sharon is managed by Vic and is related to MVP (TVS boss Mr. Manny V. Pangilinan is a cousin of Sen. Francis Pangilinan, Cuneta's husband)," said Jocson. "We're not surprised when we head they were talking."

Actress Judy Ann Santos, another ABS-CBN talent and Cuneta's close friend, said she had yet to talk to the megastar about the issue. "Whatever she decides to do, I'll support her fully. I want my sis to be happy," Santos said during a press conference for her reality show "Iyonna Master Chef" on ABS-CBN. "She should go where she thinks she will be valued better out of. She deserves it. She worked hard to be where she is."

Supporting 'ate'

Santos added: "I think more people are more open to the idea of artists transferring to other networks to get the projects they want. Even I thought of leaving my home network in the past. If that were the case for me, let's all respect her decision."

At the recent 22nd Philippine Advertising Congress in Camarines Sur, TVS head Lucky Gruhlke asked ABS-CBN chair and CEO Eugenio Lopez III if Cuneta was indeed set to leave her mother network. "I don't know," said Lopez. "Maybe we should ask the other network."

GABBY Concepcion

PIERO Sotto

At the press launch of TVS and Viva Entertainment's series adaptation of "PS. I Love You," Cuneta's ex-husband Gabby Concepcion let slip what he knew about the issue. Asked if daughter KC had told him anything about her mother's current moves, Concepcion said: "Marami akong nabalitaan, pero wala naman ako doon nung nagpirmahan. I cannot confirm or deny anything."

Concepcion added that Sharon's transfer, since it becomes official, would be "a good thing ... everybody likes change."

According to a source, Sharon will be in talk shows on TVS.

Also in the works are two movies under Viva Films—Star, with Cory Quirino, then with Santos, said Vic del Rosario, Cuneta's manager.

With a report from Marinel R. Cruz

PAOLO Pascual and KC Concepcion

Gabby...

From page K1

When it comes to love advice, Gabby said he can't give his daughters any that she hasn't already heard from friends. "Very synonymous the parents tinging his. Independent, I would take a bullet for her," he said.

For now, Gabby believes it would be better for KC to focus on her career. He also has committed to him about her need to work harder, because people respect a lot from her.

"I think she's persevered, being one firebrand," Gabby said. "She just works and works. I tell her to just let things flow and take their natural course."

Asked if he and Sharon still have constant communication, Gabby simply said, "Wag na nag kwit."

Gabby recently signed with Viva Artists Agency after his two-year stint with ABS-CBN. As a Viva talent, Gabby said that he can now work with TV5, ABS-CBN, or GMA-7. He's open to doing TV or movie projects with Sharon in the future?

"I'm looking forward to working in a good project with her. I don't mind working with anybody as long as I feel na maganda ang project," he said.

The TV version of "PS. I Love You," which stars ex-ng innocence tal'ze "Glamorosa") is not scheduled but was aired in the 1991 film that starred Richard Gutierrez and Sharon Cuneta. With the event-making place decades after the original story, Gab-

by will reprise his role as Mark, while Sunshine will replace Sharon as Dawn.

Gabby on KC's love life: 'Parang teleserye,' hard to keep track of

By Allen Policarpio
Contributor

PINOY ACTRESS and TV host KC Concepcion went to Paris for a vacation last October to "think things over" and "find herself again," bringing gossip about her rumored breakup with boyfriend Piolo Pascual was required.

While KC and Piolo looked sweet together in videos of their recent US romantic cruise, the two have remained tight-lipped on the real score between them. People could only speculate—and this includes KC's dad Gabby Concepcion, who said: movie in Jeep up with his daughter's whirlwind romance.

Speaking to reporters at the launch of TNS and Viva Entertainment's series adaptation of "Dr. I Love You," Gabby admitted he was clueless about KC and Piolo's relationship status. He joked, "Mayroong makeup sweden, parang teleserye!"

The 47-year-old actor stressed he's not one to meddle with others' love life, and "especially" not KC's.

He explained: "She's my daughter. That she's responsible for her own relationships. So, ano ang dapat sabihin ko? Ano ang dapat kong gawin? Ang dapat kong gawin ay tulungan siya sa kung ano ang desisyon niya. Challenges are needed in a relationship to know whether or not you're meant for each other."

With Megastar Sharon Cuneta as her mother, KC will always be under the public's watchful eye and scrutiny. Gabby pointed out. He said is game him to see his daughter handling all many rumors being constantly thrown at her.

'She's in control'

"She still as fun as a parent," he said. "I don't like seeing her hurt. People criticize her every move—that's tough. She's vulnerable to criticism. I thought it's a natural thing to shun her and she just needs to prepare herself emotionally. She shouldn't take it personally. Pero malakit ang hawla ko kay KC. She's very intelligent and she can control her emotions."

GABBY SE

KC and Gabby Concepcion: "She's my daughter... I don't like seeing her hurt."

ENTERTAINMENT

Plump actress endures abusive partner

By the Entertainment Staff

EVERYONE thought Semi-Retired Actress is now sleeping on a bed of roses, having latched on to wealthy billionaire Politico.

But reports have it that SA is suffering with ill wife-to-smart and verbally abusive.

At a beauty clinic, a witness was rumored to have IP cursing at SA. Imagine that—hailed in public IP even called SA crybabies. Clinic Employee: "You better make her stop. I'm spending a lot of money on that whole."

What a love deal.

Kiss and tell

Pretty Young Thing need not be surprised that her "fling" with Heartstopping Hunk Sir Zac ebooms enhanced.

Why spread the turtle tale blizard? Politely, he shook his head vehemently. Privately, he boasted about PPY, like all other previous conquests. Of course PPY is disgraced.

Noise barrage

Mole got tanked off big time with Wanted Actress.

During the recent Nonsan Manguez Bowl at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, mole had the misfortune of being seated near VA, Binalonan Hunkhood and Chatty Oddsocket.

Mole had been under the impression that VA was soft-spoken and demure. But throughout the fight, VA was shouting and screaming, shouting off a barrage of expletives, along with CB.

EB remained dignified and calm, said the mole.

Boss' choices

Although Big Boss is publicly seen with Pretty Underling in various occasions, he has his eyes on Cinemowood actress.

Like PE, GA has been "tarnished" with photo projects. That's one more sign that PE and GA are BB's current choices.

Further proof is the fact that GA is now called "boo'ann" in the workplace. Hmm.

On the verge

A movie boundary pushed (beautiful) distance to the edge. Friends are worried because she is on the verge of a meltdown.

BA caught Philandering Partner cheating on more than one occasion. The dysfunctional relationship caused BA to seek professional help.

To think she would've chosen to

KIM Chiu looks good about her body now.

RUSHES

shack up with Rich Boss, who wooed her when she was the industry's "It" Girl. Now, she's not only hunky, she's grayling as well.

D'Mango is back

Joe D'Mango is making a big comeback. Starting Tuesday, he will be heard twice weekly with a playlist of love songs plus expert advice on love and relationships via "Joe D' Mango Love Hours" on dxRM 93.1WRadyo, which you live audio streaming on dxrm.com.ph. "Love Hours" airs Tuesdays and Wednesday 12 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Top of the Tabloids

The top three hit news in the Inquirer tabloid Banderi (and why we are moved, if we are moved):

- Bgdang maitsang sa ilenyang dota, Nene Cuello, 'ang na-hgang magpa'i sa 0004. (After all that painted exchange?)
- Bdayang Nadia Montenegro, Bb de Guzman, walang mallpos. (Of course.)

JM de Guzman

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'Haloy' wins Asian development prize

FILIPINO filmmaker Sherad Anthony Sanchez's "Haloy" won the Cheer Factor grant, Alter Ego Pitahi, from Pacific Screen Fund, outstanding talent in the region, towards Netpac Development Prize, with a $5,000 grant. The prize is "designed to nurture and encourage new talent in Asian cinema," Sanchez said. "Haloy" will be screened in Kolkata and Luang Prabang next. —Bayani San Diego Jr.

SHANG CINEPLEX
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BREAKING DAWN
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ALL DRESSED up as Nina in "Dracula 3D": "I'm courteous, warm, beautiful, but right and loyal. And you shot in Turin during summer."

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Interview with vampire's bride

Italian actress Marta Gastini has made 'horror' her specialty

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by Jim Goco Penaloza

ABOUT Italy's reigning scream queen:

Italian actress Marta Gastini has made disturbing, shivering and looking very scared her screen specialty. "I have making horror films and wouldn't mind playing the vampire next time," she told Inquirer in an exclusive interview recently.

It's because she plays Mina, the willowy virgin stalked by a bloodsucker in horror master Dario Argento's latest epic, "Dracula 3D."

An excerpt of "Dracula 3D" was previewed at the filmmakers Italian Film Festival held last week at Greenbelt 3, Makati. Gastini had flown in from Rome to attend the special screening. Like the rest of the post-production, still be released worldwide early next year.

"I was really anxious to see it for the first time," she said. "It was everything I hoped it to be. I was impressed."

She received the highest praise for her performance. "Argento told me from him. He picked his actors to think. He gives us freedom to do what we wanted. But if we made a mistake, he would guide us back to the right path."

The film was shot in Turin at the height of summer. "I had to wear [wool-like] fur, heavy and tight—and very hot—costumes. In Italy we shoot winter scenes in the summer and summer scenes in the winter. I'm not complaining; I love my job."

MARTA Gastini says Dario Argento is a "generous" teacher.

Especially since "Dracula 3D" allowed her to share the screen with Asia Argento, who's also been lifelong the vampire theme. "I had seen him in 'Blade Runner,'" Gastini related. "At first, I was a little scared because we had such an intense presence. He's tall and his eyes are piercing."

She learned a lot from Asia just by watching him from the sidelines, she said. "I was trying to study him. He can be still and strong at the same time."

Likewise, she picked up lots of pointers from her screen partner, Thomas Kretschmann, who plays her vampire groom. "His Dracula was menacing, but vulnerable and human at the same time. It was interesting for me to watch him play [Dracula's duality]."

Gastini has had the best reaction on the set. Last year, she played a possessed girl in another thriller, "The Ritz," which topbilled Oscar winner Anthony Hopkins as an exorcist.

On her first day on the set of "The Rite," it suddenly hit her that she was working with the Hannibal Lecter.

"It was a powerful scene and he was only 20 centimeters away from my face, trying to drive away the devil from my body," she recounted. "I know that he's a genius, but he's humble and approachable in spite of his achievements."

She seems attracted to dark roles, she pointed out. In the TV mini-series "Borgia," she played Ilaria Farnese, the Pope's mistress. "He another Gothic role," she quipped.

When she returns to Italy she will start shooting an indie film, another horror flick with edgy director Simone Gandolfo. "We are all young people in that movie."

She hopes to return to Manila to promote "Dracula 3D" next year. "I'm shooting only three days for this trip. I got to see Intramuros and did a little shopping in Greenhills," she said, pointing at the black pearl earrings she was wearing.

On Friday night, the Embassy Manila visitor proudly wore the Philippine-made jewelry when she accepted Argento's lifetime achievement award at the Cinemanila in Ilo.

E-mail: bayanisandiego@hotmail.com

He plans to be the next Ryan Agoncillo

By Marinell R. Cruz

TV HOST Bobi Domingo put on hold his medical studies after being tapped to be one of the hosts of the latest season of the reality show "Pinoy Big Brother" on ABS-CBN.

Bobi, 22, is set to finish a personal course, Health and Sciences, at the Ateneo de Manila University in March. (He did to a general surgeon and his mother, a company doctor for the Social Security System.)

"I was told that all our signings would be in the afternoon," said Bobi, who admitted his classes in the morning so they would not get in the way of his hosting chores.

Bobi and Martin Concio, son of ABS-CBN president Eliseo Battiste Cardoso, are the latest additions to the "PBB" team. Toni Gonzaga and Bianca Gonzalez are still the main hosts. Former cohost Mariel Rodriguez (sanctioned in TV5 in October. The program began airing on Oct. 20.

"I have no idea why I was picked," Bobi told the Inquirer during the show's launch. "When Direk Laurice [Diyos, also the network's business unit head, director] told me the news, I was surprised. I smiled throughout that meeting. But was something I had dreamed of doing."

Bigger challenge

Bobi knows "PBB" could open other opportunities. "After this, I would be tapped to work on other programs. That is big," he pointed out. "If I handle the job, at least I would end my show for viewers with the biggest bang ever."

To his friends Martin, who used to host "Wasak Update Zone," for sometime. "Bigcousin Jon. We're both Ateneans. When I [mentioned to] the working [together], I was glad that we'd get to host some more."

Bobi was first noticed in "PBB Teen Edition Plus," which aired in 2008. Shortly after that, he joined the cast of "My Girl" and became a MYX VJ. He is a regular in the Sunday variety show "ASAP" as member of the dance group Gagger Boys. In 2010, he was seen in two Star Cinema films, "Utot" and "Praybeyt Benjamin."

The former housemate considers hosting "PBB" a bigger challenge to his hosting skills. "When I met with the producer and head scriptwriter, I was advised to review my high school Pilipino books," he said. "We're encouraged to speak more Pilipino on the show."

He added that his best way to answer during live performances. "I would be in front of thousands of people, I can't be nervous. I have to show everyone that [first] was right in choosing me."

He hopes to contribute "fresh" ideas to the show. He explained: "For example, I'm active in social networking sites so I can put that in the hall game. Being a former housemate, I can empathize with the contestants. I know how members, lived as ordinary life. I didn't know anything about camera angling. I can give a different perspective because I'm a product of the show."

Bobi used to dream of becoming a good actor, like the late Dino Ilas, but changed his mind. "My already have a lot of actors but hardly any good hosts. I thought, why don't I work on being one, become the next Ryan Agoncillo or Luis Manzano? After these guys graduate from hosting, may pwede ring pumalit sa kanila."

E-mail: mcruz@inquirer.com.ph

'Walking Journey' wins in NY

Cheer Factor

FILIPINO filmmaker Ferdinand John Rivamonte's documentary, "Walking the Walking Journey," won the Mostly Hope Project Award (for Social Advocacy) at the International Film Festival Manhattan in New York City on...

...recently. According to organizers, reasons for the documentary's screening was "very good" and the audience enjoyed the Q&A." The film follows a Tibetan monk who, fulfilling a promise, guides schoolchildren on a hike along perilous trails back to their mountain villages in Nepal.

Bayani San Diego Jr.

Plump . . .

Pero pages 2-3

JOHN Lloyd Cruz

• Since he/they both say Married Beginners. (Basic requirement of the job.)

• Mali. Gwan-gwan ng ipinasa ang press release.)

• Tinawag. Sharon Cuneta, kita kapatid magkita. galit? (Pwede rin rin....di na magkaayusan.)

• Family Genius. go now read/share Jima Kapunan Asuncion at Claudine Barretto. [Grand dowry.]

• Lahat daw ng guests nanonood, Phil Younghusband. (Mga dapat kay Angel Locsin. I That's how it starts.)

• Married Sean nam. Lahat pa rapper mag-pinagkasunog pupil adrenal. (All together now: Abrakadapra ang labas ...)

• Riri Chic. Wala nang biya dipa or Kapuso? Gabriela summer c. Obviously exclusive?)

• Binasa daw ng isang follower on Twitter Anne Curtis' Layuan na daw kasi [Camera with the screwup.]

• Tinawag daw kasi nyang nong, go, fans of Layuan gulit na gulit kay Dawn Lalaguja. [Di daw nga ...]

• Angel, parehas palayain si Phil, in love! (Please pay this Idiot/him/her in text.)

• Kalokalokan pa rin ang kwang ng Jhoy, Hoo-Ginzella, Jo sulatara, tsaling-a kita Agatino. (Do pa rin ... Ishi Idiot/him. Nice pakulo!)

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ENTERTAINMENT
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Living Stars

HEARD

ANDEON Cruz has confirmed on the breakup of his six-year marriage to Jessel Mercado: "I will, from ex (Church) the time I spent with Jessel. Mercado: "I will, from ex (Church) the time I spent with Jessel. Mercado: "I will, from ex (Church) the time I spent with Jessel.

ENTERTAINMENT

Martin Sheen and son recall PH shoot in '76

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Rudeve V. Napuder

LOS ANGELES—While we were interviewing the father and son team of Martin Sheen and Emilio Estevez for their movie "The Way," the former's film, "Apocalypse Now," and its tumultuous shoot in the Philippines came up. Martin had brought his entire family—wife Janet and children Ramon, Emilio, Charlie and Renee—to the Philippines to star as army assassin Capt. Benjamin Willard in what would be hailed as Francis Ford Coppola's masterpiece.

The troubles that plagued Coppola during that movie's production in the Philippines have been extensively written about—the typhoon that halted filming for over a month, the budget problems and an overweight Marlon Brando who was supposed to be an emaciated leader, among other things.

Impressive cast

Coppola's lead actor, Sheen, was having problems as well. Martin's alcoholism had affected the family. Emilio, only 15 at the time, was granted re-visiting of his dad, "I learned later where he got (stuck, because he'd get violent."

To make matters worse, Martin had a heart attack. Fortunately, it wasn't a major one; he recovered on the set after a few weeks. He rejoined the cast that included an impressive list of actors who were only starting their careers then: Laurence Fishburne, Harrison Ford, Frederic Forrest, Sam Bottoms, Frederic Roustan, to name a few. Also in the cast were Dennis Hopper and Jerome Ehlers.

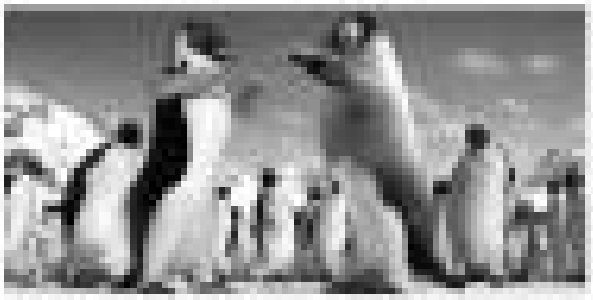
Difficult times

Today, Martin and Emilio have become close collaborators at work. Emilio directs his dad in "The Way" a profoundly moving film inspired by the Camino de Santiago, the famed pilgrimage route that starts in the French border and ends in Galicia, Spain, where the sacred relics of St. James the Apostle are believed to be buried. "The Way" Emilio's idea not in it) observes a separate cohesion, so we'll write about the film in the future.

On this afternoon, Sheen and son are seated together for the interview. Martin, sober for many years and a devout Catholic, listened intently as Emilio recalled the family's challenging times in the Philippines. "It was a very difficult time," Emilio began. "It was chaos and we had very little supervision. On 'Apocalypse Now,' much to my mother's horror, I became one of the soldiers as an extra in one of the iconic sequences. We had three weeks of training and three weeks of shooting. I was dressed in full military gear and I had a machine gun. My mother was like, 'Oh, no!'"

MARTIN: Sheen and Emilio Estevez talking on location

Hollywood all set for a blockbuster Ch



Coming soon: 'Brokeback Everest'

Martin Sheen and son recall PH shoot in '76

I met a great deal in Emilio's mother, my wife Janet, who was a pilot. She really helped me through the experience in deeply personal ways

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ASSISTANT STORE MANAGER

SALES SUPERVISOR

Assist store management in leading sales team; oversee all operations functions of the store; ensure superior customer service; coach the team towards development and drive sales. Ideal candidate must have strong leadership competencies and enthusiasm; effective people skills; and excellent written and verbal communication skills. Previous experience in luxury retail a plus. *(Ref: ASM01 (Assistant Store Manager)/-SS01 (Sales Supervisor))*

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/ HR COORDINATOR

Provide administrative support to the Country Manager by ensuring smooth operation of administrative functions. In addition, ensure efficient administrative support to the Human Resources Department based in Guam, by assisting in the planning, coordination and implementation of all HR and Training related functions. Ideal candidate must be highly organized and efficient, result and detail oriented with strong ability to multitask. Previous HR and administrative experience a plus. *(Ref: AA01)*

We offer the career opportunities, training and mobility of a major International Group as well as an attractive compensation package. We invite you to submit your resume via email to hrfilph.vuitton.com by December 1, 2011 at soon. Please include above reference number in email subject.

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ANTEL GROUP OF COMPANIES

is looking for the following:

SITE ENGINEER (MALE)
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- HOUSING

OFFICE ENGINEER (PREF. FEMALE)
- PROFICIENT IN AUTOCADD
- WITH ARCHITECTURAL SKILLS

SECRETARY (FEMALE)

SALES MANAGER

SALES AGENT

GRAPHIC ARTIST

CORPORATE LAWYER (MAKATI)

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:
- COLLEGE GRADUATE
- WITH WORKING EXPERIENCE
- WILLING TO WORK IN CAVITE
- HIGHLY MOTIVATED

Interested Applicants may CALL or TEXT 0917-599-5134 and EMAIL your RESUME to agvengineering@antel.com.ph

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EMERSON
Process Management

Process Control / Automation Engineers / Worldwide Technical Support Services
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Responsibilities:
- Responsible for providing technical support, consultation and on-site remote diagnostics on Emerson Process Management products/solutions, including DeltaV DCS, DeltaV SIS (Safety Instrumented Systems), Wireless Solution and PlantWeb installations for systems in Asia Pacific, Europe, Middle East, Africa, North America and Latin America end-user customers and engineering organizations.
- This involves troubleshooting, problem analysis solution to installation, configuration and integration.
- Successfully works to reduce product problem resolution time and support efforts to develop training and troubleshooting resources (e.g. presentations, diagnostics, and documentation).
- Communicates & coordinates with Emerson Business Partners and Field Service Organizations via Mandis, Technology, Marketing and Manufacturing to resolve customer product problems at a local and global level, conveys product issues, and gives input on product direction.
- Maintains ownership of all customer problems received/provides timely updates and sets the escalation priority.

Requirements:
- BS/MS in Chemical, Electrical, Communications or Mechanical Engineering or other Engineering Degrees.
- Minimum of three (3) years experience in process control or process engineering in at least of the following process industries: hydrocarbon processing, oil & gas (on-shore/off-shore), pulp & paper, specialty chemicals, pharmaceutical, food & beverage or power generation.
- Responsibility for control system configuration, third-party equipment integration, shutdown process control projects, or ongoing system maintenance support.
- Experience with DCS, PLC, or SCADA systems.
- Exposure or thorough understanding of Batch controls, PC based MMI, Advanced Controls, Fieldbus or SafeTrak orientation.
- Ability to troubleshoot systems and write technical descriptions of the results.
- Knowledge of networking, TCP/IP, Visual Basic, Windows (XP/2003/Vista/Window 7) operating systems.
- Excellent spoken and written English; knowledge of other foreign language (Spanish or Mandarin) is an advantage.
- Willing to work on shift schedule.
- Willing to travel and take on domestic/international assignments including long-term (3+ months).

Applicants may send their comprehensive resume at **ltn.technology@ap.emersonprocess.com**

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Thrive in a fast-paced, multicultural environment where expectations are high but roles are dynamic and flexible. Connect with a worldwide team of professionals and take on diverse, challenging and innovative projects.

B&M Global Services Manila provides business and knowledge support services to leading law offices in more than 50 countries — and to their clients, many of whom are the world's largest multinationals. We invite professionals with the same drive and enthusiasm to explore a career with us.

Global Meetings & Events Coordinator

The Coordinator, Global Meetings & Events will provide crucial events meeting services and limited administrative support for in-house meetings & client events in the North American region and meetings in other regions supported by the Global Meeting Team. In addition to providing meeting registration support.

The Coordinator, Global Meetings & Events will be expected to perform the following core responsibilities:

- Create and manage budgets and project timelines, compile and summarize information clearly through regular reports.
- Conduct site and venue searches, prepare and issue RFPs and summarize responses to include hotel descriptions, availability, rates, meeting space capacities, web page or brochure samples, access to airport, etc.
- Coordinate logistical details with hotels and other vendors, and develop meeting specifications including, meeting room set-ups, audio-visual requirements, guestroom and meeting registration, food & beverage functions, communications and special events.
- Develop and disseminate information to meeting participants including content, registration and guestroom information and other general meeting information.

Requirements:

- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor of College Degree, Business Management & Marketing, Communications Management, Hospitality/Tourism/Hotel Management or equivalent.
- Previous hotel or convention services experience, event coordination experience or experience working in a multinational company or an international law firm a significant advantage.
- Superior English communication (verbal and written) with the ability to convey precise information and ideas clearly and concisely in both personal and electronic levels in a multi-cultural, multi-level environment.
- Excellent organizational skills, high attention to detail and ability to multi-task and prioritize with an emphasis projects constantly.
- Ability to coordinate several concurrent activities with strict timeframes.
- Ability to take initiative and follow through on assigned tasks.
- Superior customer service skills.
- Ability to work well as a team member and make decisions independently.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office suite of products, in particular with Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint.
- 2 Full-Time positions available.

Interested applicants may send their resume to recruitment@bmmanila.com.ph not later than December 2011.

B&M Global Services Manila, Inc.

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get hired www.jobmarketonline.com

Philippines Australia Public Financial Management Program

Manila, Philippines

The Philippines Australia Public Financial Management Program (PFMP) is a joint initiative of the Governments of Australia and the Philippines. It directly assists the national government to implement the Philippine Public Financial Management Reform Roadmap, focusing on Accountability and Transparency. The overall goal of the PFMP is improvement in the efficiency, accountability and transparency of public sector performance to deliver services effectively.

PFMP is seeking applications for two specialist advisor positions for this program:

Senior Public Financial Management Advisor – CCFF-2207

- 24 month contract, (job category C, Level 1 on AusAID's Adviser Remuneration Framework)

The Senior Public Financial Management Advisor will provide strategic and operational advice and guidance to ensure progress in support to the Philippine Government's PFM reform agenda. This role works closely with PFM personnel and project stakeholders, especially counterparts within the Philippine Government to design, implement and monitor PFM activities, and to enable collaborative working and knowledge exchange.

To be successful for this position, applicants will need to demonstrate senior experience supervising complex PFM activities in an emerging economy/developing country environment as well as an outstanding ability to provide high quality advice and strategic guidance based on international best practice principles. Experience in the Philippines PFM environment would be highly desirable.

Governance Advisor – Civil Society – CCFF-2208

- 6 month contract, (job category B Level 3 on AusAID's Adviser Remuneration Framework)

The Governance Advisor – Civil Society will consolidate the program's Civil Society Organization (CSO) Engagement Strategy, as well as support the PFMP to undertake and operationalise its program engagement activities. This will establish the foundation for long-term partnerships between civil society organizations, CSOs and the national government.

To be successful for this position, applicants will need to demonstrate experience working in the governance function area, either in a public sector, non-government or development agency capacity, preferably in the Philippines. In addition, applicants will need to demonstrate excellent stakeholder engagement and facilitation skills, and the ability to develop appropriate policies and strategies for civil engagement tasks assigned.

These roles will be challenging and rewarding and will entail a lot of travel. Highly professional dedicated people are required who appreciate working in team programs.

Interested applicants should submit a Curriculum Vitae, Application Letter and Personal History Statement quoting the position title in both, online at www.careers.coffey.com quoting the relevant reference number.

Applications close 5:00pm (AEDT) Friday 25 November 2011.

coffey international development

PHILIPPINES AUSTRALIA PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Seeking Expressions of Interest from Consultants and Firms

- Philippines Australia Public Financial Management Program
- Manila, Philippines

With four decades of experience and more than 1200 development professionals, Coffey International Development is one of the world's most experienced and reliable international development consulting companies. We are the trusted advisers to many donor agencies, governments, multilateral institutions and organizations around the globe.

We are managing the AusAID funded Philippines Australia Public Financial Management Program (PFMP) which is the Government's response to the efficiency, accountability and transparency in the use of public funds in the Philippines to enable better service delivery. The program's purpose is to support the Philippines in implementing reforms that will provide the basis for building blocks for a modern PFM system. The first phase of the PFMP is five (5) years.

We are establishing a pool of consultants and firms to PFMP to future work opportunities on activities and projects that it will fund. The pool, or roster, covers an initial four major areas of expertise:

- Public Financial Management and Reform
- Public Sector Management and Capacity Development
- Management Information Systems (MIS/eMIS)
- Participatory Governance

We are inviting individuals, consultants and consulting firms to be part of this joint international partner through complete the Expression of Interest online and submit Curriculum Vitae for individuals and Company Profile for consulting firms.

The register will be updated every year. The first batch of individual consultants and the consultancies by end of January 2012. Submissions of interest and other documents received will be published no later than **15 December 2011** to be considered.

The register is open to international consultants and consulting firms. Women are encouraged to apply.

For further information and to express your interest please visit: www.careers.coffey.com quoting **EOIR-1008**.

For more information contact: Adriana Kopec-Ahrens, Project Director, quoting **PFMP-Pool of Consultants – EOIR-1008**.

coffey international development

PHILIPPINES AUSTRALIA PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Request for Tender (RFT)

- Philippines Australia Public Financial Management Program (PFMP)
- Strengthening the Financial Management System in the Department of Education – EoQ10
- Manila, Philippines

The Philippines Australia Public Financial Management Program (PFMP) is a joint initiative of the Governments of Australia and the Philippines. It directly assists the national government to implement the Philippine Public Financial Management Reform Roadmap, focusing on Improved Accountability and Transparency, in order to improve the quality and delivery of education in the Philippines. DepED is implementing a package of public reforms that covers policy, audits, equity, institutional management and textbook funding.

Coffey International Development Pty Ltd (Coffey), as the managing contractor of the PFMP, is seeking proposals from qualified organizations to undertake the activity: **Strengthening the Financial Management System in the Department of Education.**

- The detailed work and tender requirements can found in the downloadable RFT found at www.coffey.com/international-development/tenders
- The successful contractor will be required to mobilize in country no later than 31 January 2012.
- The project duration is 11 months and the engagement shall be completed by end of June 2013.

PFMP will accept lodgement of tenders by email, fax or courier at the following address: **Third Floor, JMT Building, 6836 Ayala Avenue, Orlaya Center, Pasay City 1200, PHILIPPINES.**

For submission of hardcopy, tenders must be received at the above Office of PFMP no later than 5:00pm Philippine Time on 13 December 2011 (Tuesday) marked as the attention of Ms Hope Rodgers, PFMP Project Manager. For electronic submissions, tenders must be submitted via email to: Hope.Rodgers@coffey.com no later than **5:00pm Manila time also on 13 December 2011** (Tuesday).

Enquiries concerning the RFT should be made in writing no later than **Friday 2 December 2011, 5:00pm Manila time**, and directed to Adriana Kopec-Ahrens, Project Director, PFMP. PFMP reserves the right to provide responses to all questions to all Tenderers.

For more information contact: Adriana Kopec-Ahrens, Project Director, quoting Strengthening System EoQ10 RFT or at www.coffey.com/international-development/tenders

coffey international development

ARUP

We shape a better world

We are an independent firm of designers, planners, engineers, consultants and technical specialists offering a broad range of professional services.

Through our work, we make a positive difference in the world. Arup brings together broad-minded individuals from a wide range of disciplines and encourages them to look beyond the constraints of their own specialism.

Start your Arup journey here.....

We are looking for highly motivated individuals with very good communication skills to join our dynamic team in shaping a better world.

Senior Water Resources Engineer – We are looking for a Senior Water Resources Engineer with experience in design of dams and water retaining structures, distribution and collection systems, and associated infrastructure.

The candidate will be tasked with: asset all management duties for a city-wide water network; working out feasibility studies, design, construction management and construction supervision of water supply projects; ability to monitor site activities and other contract stakeholders as a must. The candidate should also have experience in business development, development of project delivery strategies, proposal preparation and contract negotiations.

The successful candidate must be a registered Civil or Sanitary Engineer with at least 10-15 years experience.

Senior Electro-Mechanical Engineer – We are looking for a senior engineer to lead our MEP team and assist in the design of various water infrastructure buildings in Metro Manila. The candidate should have a good understanding of electro-mechanical systems design and operation and should have experience managing large teams. Ability to handle multiple projects at once is a must. Experience in construction administration, project management, preparation of tender documents, preparation of contract documents, negotiations with various stakeholders, etc. The candidate should be a registered Mechanical Engineer or Electrical engineer with 10-15 years experience, 7 years of which should be in a managerial role.

Senior Civil/Infrastructure Engineer – We are looking for an engineer to assist our civil/infrastructure team. The candidate should have experience in managing the design of various types of projects ranging from site development, roads, bridges and underground utility projects. Ability to handle multiple projects at once is a must. Experience in business development, preparation of tender documents, preparation of contract documents, negotiations with various stakeholders, etc. The candidate should be a registered civil engineer with 10-15 years experience. 7 years of which should be in a managerial role.

Geotechnical Engineer – We are looking for a registered mining engineer to be a part of our Manila Team. The successful candidate will be tasked with: geotechnical investigation and engineering and supervision of site investigations; preparation of reports and recommendations; slope stability analysis; foundation design; preparation of contract documents; negotiations with various stakeholders; etc. The candidate should be a registered mining engineer with 10-15 years experience, 7 years of which should be in a managerial role.

Jr. Structural Engineers – We have an opportunity in our Manila Group for a structural engineer providing structural design support on a range of Arup projects. The successful candidate will have: structural experience in structural design analysis and calculations of various steel and concrete civil infrastructure. Capable of working with a team. Flexible and has the ability to work under pressure. The successful candidate should be a registered civil engineer with at least 1-3 years experience.

CAD Technicians – Successful candidate will be working as a member of multi-disciplinary projects using Autocad and 3-D modelling to produce working drawings. Should be a graduate of Civil/Structural Engineering with at least 1 year experience in using Autocad and 3-D software. Strong attention to detail and ability to produce high quality drawings within tight deadlines. Should be team oriented and flexible to deadlines. Willingness to work overtime during critical periods is mandatory. Should be a team member and flexible to deadlines. Willingness to contribute and share ideas on projects also encouraged.

Technical Assistant – We are looking for a Technical Assistant with at least 2-3 years experience and with the technical knowledge gained from an engineering consulting firm. The successful candidate will be responsible to prepare for presentation materials, reports, drawings, working with clients, and many more. The successful candidate should be a graduate of Civil Engineering, preferably with a degree in Civil Engineering or Engineering Management. He/She must possess good communication skills and have a value in the use of MS Office and technological of document filing systems.

For interested applicants, please send your curriculum vitae to jobs.manila@arup.com

Indofine INTERNATIONAL

Join Us!

Indofine International (IFI) is a wholly-owned Filipino company specializing in providing flavoring and seasoning solutions to various multinational and local food manufacturers. With decades of experience in the industry, IFI offers a work environment that allows to reward performers and offers opportunities for personal and professional development.

R&D Senior Specialist

- Have spent the last 6 years in the food industry in an R&D capacity
- Female, Preferably 30 to 35 years of age
- Graduate of BS Food Technology from a reputable institution
- Ability to work independently with minimal supervision
- Preferably has experience handling subordinates

R&D Specialist

- Have spent the last 2 years in the food industry in an R&D capacity
- Female, Preferably 24 to 30 years of age
- Graduate of BS Food Technology from a reputable institution

Interested applicants may send their resumes with photo to **salesfindofine.net.ph**

NREA sets annual assembly, election on Nov. 25 at Makati Sports Club

THE NATIONAL REAL Estate Association (NREA) will hold its annual membership meeting on Nov. 25, 1 p.m.-5 p.m. at Makati Sports Club in Makati City with its national Regional C. Lorenzo, commandant of the Philippine Coast Guard as guest speaker.

Mendoza

Leong

Del Mar

The seven are nominated by association past presidents Marcelo Claridad who said that this year's election will be cleared by no less than the NREA founder and chairman Jose (Ka Pepe) R. Mendoza with PF Sr. Danny Litan, Peter C. Mendoza, Mateo Agulto, Jeng Dela Cruz and Bong Tagpuno as members.

During the meeting, nine members will also be inducted to enable them to participate in the election. This is also an opportunity for NREA members to bring and sponsor their friends and associates to be part of NREA, the one-stop trade organization.

Del Mar also reminded that only members in good standing may vote and be voted upon, for which purpose, they can settle the membership dues and other monetary obligations if any, with the treasurer at the Secretariat office.

Likewise, members eligible to vote, but who cannot be physically present, may send their duly accomplished proxy forms to discharge their election privileges.

Please call the Permanent Secretariat at tel. nos. (02) 912-3482, or (02) 913-6983 for more information.

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STELLAR PHILIPPINES INAUGURATES LIBIS FACILITY

Stellar, a leading global provider of call center and business process outsourcing (BPO) solutions, formally opened its new facility in the Philippines located at the MDC 101 Building along E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue, Bagumbayan, in Libis, Quezon City. The opening of the new Stellar Philippines facility is part of the company's commitment to growth presence in the country and serves as a strong testament to its successful operations here. The company also hopes that this new facility would help Stellar Philippines attract more quality agents who are willing to be part of this "vocation" industry. Stellar operates outsourcing centers around the world running by more than 3,000 employees that collectively manage over 300 million customer interactions and 100 million transaction processes annually. Shown during the inauguration rites are (left to right) Ruth Gorrosa, chief operating officer of Stellar Australia, Edmund Hussey, chief executive officer, Stellar Philippines; Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Undersecretary Cristina Panlilio; and Paulina Serrado Jr., chief finance officer of Pasys, Inc. For more information about Stellar Philippines, visit http://www.stellarbpo.com.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD)
Central Office, National Resource Complex, Quezon City

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

The Kalahi-CIDSS is a poverty reduction project of the Government of the Philippines, implemented by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), with financing assistance from the World Bank and grants from Japan Social Development Fund and Millennium Challenge Corporation. The project aims to reduce poverty by (1) empowering the poor to participate meaningfully in development, and (2) making development initiatives responsive to the needs of the poor by investing in local governance processes and systems more participatory, transparent, and accountable.

The National Project Management Office is in need of the following staff:

COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

- Completed undergraduate degree in social science. Post graduate units or degree in social sciences, development studies, sociology, anthropology will be an advantage.
- At least two (2) years progressive work experience in community development and social protection implementing projects/programs in urban areas, work in the context of Foreign Assisted Projects (FAPs), Conditional and Unconditional Grant Enterprise Development is preferred. Experience in managing financial, development or social (FAPs) projects will be an advantage. Preference to community organizing and community-driven development (CDD) will likewise be an advantage.
- Familiarity with Philippine experience on social protection development, gender and development, social safety nets/poverty reduction, and decentralization and participatory local governance.
- Excellent grasp of Cebuano and English spoken urban poverty conditions, current and poverty initiatives targeted for the urban poor, and different approaches to community facilitation and mobilization for genuine participation and community development in urban areas. Familiarity with the Kalahi's various poverty reduction programs will be an advantage.
- Background in development communication, research, and experience in designing and implementing capability building and training on social enterprise development, livelihood development, social economic markets, market research, product development.
- Fluent in English and Tagalog.
- Proficient in Cebuano is a plus.
- Must have knowledge in the use of Microsoft (Word, Excel, and PowerPoint). Familiarity with MS Project and other qualitative analysis software will be an advantage.

MONITORING & EVALUATION OFFICER IV FOR URBAN CIDS

- Graduate of Bachelor's degree in Social Science preferably in the field of Policy Administration, Management and Development Communication.
- Min. 3 years experience in monitoring and evaluation preferably in foreign assisted projects.
- Excellent interpersonal, organizational and coordination skills.
- Fluency in oral and written communication skills in both Filipino and English.
- Proficient in the use of MS word, Excel and Powerpoint.

PROJECT ACCOUNTANT (FINANCIAL ANALYST V)

- Certified Public Accountant
- With 7 years work experience
- Preferred in HE Office
- Can work overtime without a pay and weekend, assertive, independent minded
- Has good communication skills, able to negotiate, and can present ideas with clarity and cohesiveness

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ANALYST

- A degree in the Social Sciences
- At least 5 years experience in Monitoring and Evaluation work.
- Familiarity with social development, gender, good governance, participatory processes and monitoring and evaluation tools and processes.
- High proficiency in Microsoft Office applications, at least in Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Ability to create databases from existing Excel formulas and charts.
- Willingness to undertake field work and interact with different stakeholders.
- Demonstrated analytical, report writing skills (samples to be submitted).
- Good oral and written communication skills.
- Can work under pressure and with minimal supervision.
- Ability to constantly train, share and coordinate with other staff.
- Proficiency in the use of statistical software is an advantage.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

- Master's degree in Public Administration/Business Management or related course.
- Minimum 5 years experience in administrative management and supervisory positions in a foreign assisted project.
- At least 24 hours of relevant training.
- Excellent communication and management skills.
- Ability to work in a highly demanding work environment.
- Ability to work well with different stakeholders.
- Proficiency in the use of MS Word, Excel and Powerpoint.

NATIONAL SOCIAL MARKETING OFFICER

- Bachelor's Degree in Development Communication/Information Management/Mass Communication or equivalent combination of education, certification and experience.
- At least 3 years of experience in communication and marketing with development projects.
- Skills in relevant training.
- Demonstrated capacity to design communication and marketing strategies.
- Proficiency in the use of MS Office. Proficiency in a publishing software is also.
- Strong networking skills.
- Qualified applicant must submit at least 2 sample works

MONITORING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CLUSTER HEAD

- Bachelor's degree in social sciences.
- Five (5) years of relevant and progressive work experience in development, particularly in CD, community organizing and community and local level, three (3) years of which should be in the context of Foreign assisted Projects (FAPs). Post-graduate degree in public or social sciences, community development, and/or at least 6 months training in CD is desirable.
- Up to date on relevant training.
- Background with experience on gender and development (GAD), local governance, social reforms, indigenous people and CCs, and/or peace building, and training will be considered an advantage.
- Proficient in the use of MS Word, Excel and Powerpoint. Proficiency in the use of MS Project and qualitative analysis software will be considered an advantage.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Good documentation skills and computer skills.
- Willing to travel.

Interested applicants must submit on or before **Sunday, November 27, 2011**, a Letter of Application addressed to **The National Project Manager, KALAHI-CIDSS PROJECT** by curriculum vitae to **kc_recruit@yahoo.com**.

Only shortlisted applicants will be notified for exam and panel interview.

Asian Development Bank-Japan Scholarship Program
Funded by the Government of Japan

Qualified citizens of developing member countries of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), who intend to pursue post-graduate studies in economics, management, science and technology, and other development related fields, are invited to apply for scholarships under the Asian Development Bank-Japan Scholarship Program (ADB-JSP). Upon successful completion of the graduate program, the scholars are expected to return to their country and contribute to its socioeconomic development. Scholarships are awarded for graduate studies at designated institutions in courses of study approved by ADB. The program especially welcomes qualified women applicants who have limited financial means to obtain university education.

The Scholarships

Level of Education: post-graduate (diploma, masters, and doctorate degree)
Duration: 1 to 2 years
Coverage: tuition fees, subsistence allowance (including housing), books, medical insurance, economy airfare, and research subsidy

Academic Institutions

- **Australia:** The Australian National University (Crawford School of Economics and Government), The University of Melbourne
- **China, People's Republic of** The University of Hong Kong
- **India** Indian Institute of Technology Delhi
- **Japan** Hitotsubashi University, International University of Japan, Keio University (Graduate School of Economics, Graduate School of System Design and Management, and International Graduate Programs on Advanced Science and Technology), Kobe University, Kyushu University, Nagoya University (Graduate School of International Development), National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, Ritsumeikan University (Graduate School of Economics), Saitama University (Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering), Tokyo Institute of Technology, The University of Tokyo (Department of Civil Engineering, Department of Urban Engineering, Graduate School of Public Policy, Institute of Environmental Studies, and School of International Health), University of Tsukuba
- **New Zealand** The University of Auckland
- **Pakistan** Lahore University of Management Sciences
- **Philippines** Asian Institute of Management, International Rice Research Institute/University of the Philippines, Los Baños
- **Singapore** Nanyang Technological University (Nanyang Business School), National University of Singapore
- **Thailand** Asian Institute of Technology, Thammasat University
- **USA** East-West Center/University of Hawaii

Eligibility Requirements

Prospective applicants must:

- be a citizen of an ADB developing member country,
- have at least 2 years of work experience,
- have gained admission to an approved course in a designated institution,
- be proficient in oral and written English communication skills,
- be in good health, and
- be not more than 35 years old at the time of application. (Staff of ADB and the designated institutions and their close relatives are not eligible to apply.)

Application Requirements

Applicants should obtain application forms from the designated institutions of their choice and submit the completed forms and required documentation to the institutions. Applicants should indicate on the application form that they wish to be considered for an ADB JSP scholarship. (ADB will select the scholars from among those admitted by the institutions. A separate application to ADB is not necessary.) For further information, visit the ADB JSP website:

www.adb.org/jsp

ISP ADB

IAS
International Aviation Services

IAS an airline subsidiary is searching for

BAHASA MELAYU and BAHASA INDONESIA Speakers

In addition candidate must have the following qualifications:

- Good English communication skills
- Good interpersonal skills
- Must be customer friendly, patient and possess a positive happy disposition
- A team player who is quick to learn

Send resume via e-mail to **hire@meglobal.com**

A growing logistics and toll manufacturing company serving multinational corporations is in need of:

SENIOR IE AND PROJECTS ENGINEERS

Graduate in any Engineering Course. Preferably with at least 2 years experience in a manufacturing company. Experience in making feasibility studies, systems analysis, process improvements and Time & Motion studies is a plus.

Submit resume to:
INVENTORY EXCHANGE CENTER, INC.
8-805, Ayala FOU Center, Subang Jaycee Rd.
Madrigal Business Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa City, 1770
Telefax #: (632) 0781 / (632) 2068 · Email: inec@inec.com.ph

A prestigious international non-government organization engaged in the implementation of various areas of law and governance projects is in search of candidates for its:

MONITORING AND EVALUATION CONSULTANT

As Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Consultant, the candidate's responsibilities shall include:

1) Development and implementation of Performance Monitoring Plan(s), with data collection, analysis and reporting;
2) Coordination with Program Managers in the planning/collection of data to monitor progress against set program objectives and benchmarks;
3) Design and development of evaluation tools, including surveys and field-based projects;
4) Generation and consolidation of the M&E components of technical reports;
5) Performance of such other M&E related tasks as may be required by the Country Director.

The ideal candidate must have the following qualifications:

- A degree in Social Science, Economics, Statistics, Public Administration, or other related fields;
- Considerable experience in evaluation research methods and approaches, including quantitative, qualitative, and participatory approaches;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills;
- Organizational ability to manage a variety of tasks with minimal supervision;
- Ability to use various MS applications (e.g., Word, Powerpoint, Excel, Access, and Visio);
- Familiarity with development legal and political processes, and experience in dealing with international organizations are highly preferred.

Interested parties may submit their comprehensive resumes with samples of written work via e-mail to **ipcvalbonds@gmail.com**

Immediate Hiring

A Bulacan-based Thrift Bank is in need of

GENERAL MANAGER

- Male or Female
- With at least five (5) years Managerial banking experience
- Preferably Accounting or Banking & Finance graduate

Send Resume thru e-mail to
tbmanpower@yahoo.com

The country's most widely read and influential newspaper is in need of:

INQUIRER

AUDIT SUPERVISOR

- Bs/Ms Accountancy/Business and Certified Public Accountant
- Preferably with BSIA thesis
- At least 3 years experience in cost accounting and/or audit
- With knowledge of General Accounting and Auditing Principles and Procedures
- Knowledge of Standards for Professional Practice of Internal Auditing
- Knowledge of Fraud Examination, Taxation, Labor Laws
- Leadership and Analytical Skills

HRSA ADMIN

- College graduate/undergrad in Journalism or any Social Sciences course
- Must have 2 years experience in newspaper Journalism
- With at least 3 years experience in editing and the layouting/pasting pages
- Familiar with editorial operations or publishing processes

Send your application letter, resume with recent picture and a photocopy of your transcript of records to:

Human Resources Department
INQUIRER PUBLICATIONS INC. - CEBU DAILY NEWS
Kaohsiung Boulevard S. Osmeña St.
North Reclamation Area, Cebu City 6000
or email to **alfonso@inquirerpublications.ph**

CEBU DAILY NEWS

Cebu Daily News is the regional paper of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, the ONLY independent newspaper in Cebu.

CIRCULATION MANAGER

- A college graduate
- With at least two (2) years experience in distribution or place-nursing consumer goods company (FMCG) or similar industries
- Can work under pressure and must be able to thrive under a deadline-driven environment
- Has creativity in developing new sales strategies and has strong analytical skills
- Has strong interpersonal skills, has high degree of integrity and can build & maintain strong relationships
- Has excellent communication skills, both oral & written
- Preferably a resident of Cebu and willing to travel to other parts of the Visayas region.

Send your application letter, resume with recent picture and a photocopy of your transcript of records to:

Human Resources Department
INQUIRER PUBLICATIONS INC. - CEBU DAILY NEWS
Kaohsiung Boulevard S. Osmeña St.
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WORKING PEOPLE

Send career feedback
inquirer.com.ph/workingpeople
E-mail: workingpeople@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Jaime Francis N. Hernandez

PSTD's Gawad Maestro Award for Workplace Learning Excellence

Illustration by Elizalde Hugo Parong

BY THIS NOVEMBER, 2011, I helped an outstanding entrepreneur plan to hit a billion pesos revenue in a couple of years. It doesn't seem daunting, unless you know that ten years ago, they hardly hit the 10 million mark. The aging management team agreed that the ambitious target can be hit, but not if they keep doing what they do best. They ought to do something different.

When Manny Pangilinan sets his first or second championship belt, he didn't take a million dollar purse. He got $15 or $20 million to pay for 36 minutes in the ring. He spikes hard to fight the big boys. There was no way he could get big bucks by staying small and fighting small guys. He had to grow big to fight the major players in the commercial and higher divisions.

Big league

Ambitious companies must discharge their mindset that by doing what they do best in the same league will get them big bucks. To make big bucks, you must consider playing in the small league. To play well also in the big league, you got to be big.

Growing big does not result from merely infusing more capital into a small business. That is just one part of the four quadrants in the balanced score card. In fact, the others including mastery in the four quadrant has got to do with organizational learning. Mastering and technology to improve internal processes are easy to find. Preparing the organization and the people to cope with the challenges of playing in the big league is more daunting.

To be globally competitive, you have to transform the mindsets and behaviors of people. It is not business-as-usual. Five or ten years ago, you might have had all the competencies you need, but may have change and require new skills. People don't improve their skills and attitudes at his or her

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

Ernie O. Cecilia

market areas down to Quite often, no organization's skills possess only 1000 short of the threshold of the ever-changing, unruliest and unforgiving market.

Training and development

Fortunately, skills gaps can be addressed by training, education and development. (The difference) either set of an moment in this book.)

In an ambitious organization that wants to metamorphose into a big league player, the traditional training and development functions will not suffice. Developing and deepening the leadership bench is perceived among the managers' and workers' requisite abilities. Today, the CEO has the option to build, buy or borrow the right number and kind of people required to succeed in business. HR managers and trainers have their hands full in implementing some creative strategies to develop performance key and critical competencies.

The global business readers have their browser to competitive that every novel and creative strategies are needed to Workplace Learning and Performance (WLP). The ever-changing environment requires truly talented, devoted, passionate and committed talents and leaders to deliver cutting-edge programs that add and value the organization.

PSTD at the forefront

The Philippine Society for Training and Development (PSTD) is the premiere organization in human resources training and development. When Atom Araullo, section editor of Working People in the Philippine Daily Inquirer (PDI), was President of PSTD, he conceived the idea of recognizing outstanding trainers and coaches by way of the Gawad Maestro Award. On November 26, 2011, PSTD duly recognized individuals and organizations who have distinguished themselves for demonstrating leadership and creativity in enhancing organizational effectiveness.

As the Grand Ballroom of Discovery Suites along Ortigas Boulevard, PSTD duly give medals in the following categories in the area of Workplace Learning And Performance, through the then Grand Master Awardee Organizational WLP Professional, Outstanding WLP Manager, Outstanding WLP Organizational Champion, WLP Program Intervention, and WLP Leader Extraordinaire.

PSTD considered that 10 other outstanding case study finalists and an alternative under the able leadership of Milelle Tarroza, Inspiration PSTD President.

Ni Made R. Cabanos, Chairperson of the PSTD Academy, says, "We are very proud of PSTD and total. If we are to achieve our dreams of achieving excellence in the workplace. This is why we have widened our scope in terms of industry coverage to make the Gawad Maestro Awards a truly competitive one."

PSTD has opened the Awards to WLP practitioners and organizations in manufacturing, financial services, business process outsourcing (BPO), transportation, communications, utilities, retail, professional services, health care, government, and non-government organizations (NGOs).

PSTD is inclined about organizational issues on human resources development (HRD) and workplace learning and performance (WLP). Over the years, PSTD continues to contributing ways in accordingly developing HRD and WLP as a profession. It is important to note day. PSTD partners and effort in these areas will help make the Philippines the foremost training hub of Asia.

Celestine participates PSTD's definitive role in HRD and WLP. We have no doubt that the Philippines can truly make it as an Asian training hub, considering the abundance of talents here when it comes to propagating workplace excellence. We hope that by raising the bar these talents we can elevate the standards of workplace performance in the country," says Celestine.

Lisa Macuja-Elizalde

The announcement event will be graced by Lisa Macuja-Elizalde, foremost Filipino prima ballerina, at guest of honor and speaker. It should be remembered that Lisa studied on hand at producing her craft under the tutelage of world-renowned ballet coaches. Her student hood did not stand in the way of her craft which she has mastered over the years. Later, she would become a great ballet coach, choreographer and artist.

Lisa would look back and say, "My mind was completely focused on what I was doing in pint of my objectives of becoming a prima ballerina not only in the Philippines but also the world. It was hard because I sacrificed a lot, especially with regard to my social life, to be able to reach my goals. In the end, I believe it was all truly attained."

The recurring guest of Lisa Macuja-Elizalde for excellence in her dream field is shown by students. The value and importance of training and development are best emphasized in her career. Her at a moment until she became a prima ballerina, and then as trainer and coach to budding talents.

It is in this spirit she has shown consistently that PSTD hopes to continue in the Philippine organizations the cutting-edge discipline of training and development that can make organizations competitive globally.

Training and Coaching

Over the years, the importance of training and coaching cannot be overemphasized. When you think that training is simply for dummies, you are in for a rude awakening. Many CEOs are taking training, both formal and informal, from business coaches to enhance their business and leadership skills.

Succession planning to ensure deep leadership bench requires organizations it never complete without training and coaching support. As entrepreneurs and CEOs show up more confidence, prone to succeed in the big league, HRD and WLP experts are called upon to prove equal to the challenge of developing core competencies needed for survival and success.

The end news in the Philippines is that more entrepreneurs and CEOs don't know how to train their people to perform their best. They dream big, but they don't give their dream teams time and space, much less resources.

As some HRD and WLP practitioners would admonish these prospective clients, "If you think training is expensive, try ignorance."

Ernie is current Chair of the Committee on Accreditation (ACCOMM) of the Asian Quality Network (AQN), Long Range Policy Planning Committee. He was also President of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines in 2000. He is the President and CEO of IC Business Solutions and Consulting Corporation. He is currently consulting firm. His new books, "LEO: Big Lessons" and "LEO: Big Gen" are now available at local stores. He can be reached at ernie_cecilia@yahoo.com.

Gospel: MT 25:31-46

And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.'

Living a rainbow life: Balancing work and life

L-EARNING MOMENTS

Tita Bada Puongco

LIVING A BALANCED LIFE THESE days have become a luxury. People are pursuing their careers while working and living 7 days. We don't seem to get away from our computers. For many professionals work has become the new addiction. I am a personal witness to 5 of my close friends who have succumbed to heart attacks while having extended hours at almost. My youngest daughter who is graduating from college has attended funerals of 3 of her contemporaries. People are dying younger these days. We are followed at the high cost of work overtime in remote centers, the country's highest growing industry. Equally sad are the many young people who succumb to lack of sleep and nursing to clean living.

A team of consultants in our company have decided to address and continue the problem. We looked at our products and services, and have decided to launch it a stronger way our rainbow life program as an alternative lifestyle. Today, we train hundreds in the course and we have moved to coaching and counseling individuals who desire to practice this particular lifestyle.

Rainbow life at work

The Rainbow Life is an inspiration of Chino Lobrick, the founder of the Boracay Mountain who understood that God has woven a deluge of love for every person. By following this design, living every person's moment well, was the individual's and organization's secret with removing one's personal mindset, values and values. Then connecting and aligning them with one's life roles. Then we check out against the colors. Every color represents an aspect of one's life.

Red is work and finances

The red of the rainbow is the foundation. It is work that utilizes a person to support self and family. It allows for the use and growth of one's talents and capabilities. Living the red means delivering perfect and artful work. It also is learning to taking advantage of every hour spent at work to be productive and efficient. It is giving one's best during office hours and the discipline to quit working for tasks that can be done the next day. The red time refers to the competencies we get from work. It is having a budget that encourages proper spending and savings. It is the capital to focusing on needs rather than wants. It also encourages living with simplicity which is quite a challenge in these days of gadgets and their commodities.

Orange is relationships

The orange stands for the important aspect of relationships. It is examining how we connect with people especially those who we choose to as the family and friends. It is living in community rather than independent islands. We live the principle where we find time to examine and renew relationships. Often relationships are relegated to the background to a point that sometimes they become irretrievable. How many parents are astounded in finding the distance between between them and their children or relatives? The orange encourages us to approach our loved ones with care and compassion for shortcomings. How many people go to work without fulfilling relationships that grow and nurture through them? What opportunities for friendship are lost. Relationships are the delight of life.

Yellow is spirituality

The yellow is recognizing the one-ness, God. God has created each one in his image and likeness. Man is primarily spirit. So we find food for our body, we have to nourish our spirit. This means spending time on reflection and meditation daily. It is to nurture our spirit, finding out Creator who knows best what is good for us. It is finding time for listening to the "voice within", that can never go wrong in giving us guidance, direction and inspiration in life's conflicts and issues. Spirituality is the strength of the Filipino, whether in religion or faith. It is a faith, that God is always there for us. He is our loving, caring and compassionate and life-creator of all types. The yellow brings us renewal.

Green is health

Someone said that today, we were too hostile like a beast in the jungle. Living in the jungle is not health, caring and preserving it is one for responsible living. The reminders or being faithful to our cue for our health like going for our medical and dental tests, keeping a physical exercise regimen, eating the right nutritious leaves to nurse ourselves and respecting the body days and holidays to recharge. It is going for maintenance and informed advice on our health rather than pursuing expensive health fads and self-medication. How many friends I know with critical diseases have discovered much too late than self-medication did more harm than good. Green also means the ability to manage and cope with stress and tolerance to adversity quotient.

Blue is self organization

Organizing our days and our environment conquers the blue. It is also respecting and respecting the natural environment. It is finding time to organize and maintain our surroundings, finding the right place for everything. It is knowing how disorder can disrupt our lives. Disorganization prevents us from living with a sense of harmony and rhyme or mind to keep our disposition pleasant. It also means applying what we know to organizing our life at work but also at home. A person managing our time to address the different roles in our lives that we need to live well.

Indigo is continuous learning

Today we live in the knowledge age. Indigo encourages self learning and continuous development. This is developing a learning program and establishing a learning network, being in touch with professionals with whom we can exchange knowledge and wisdom. Indigo also means the ability to disseminate, with the aspiration of knowledge these days, as to what is easy obsolete so given that our knowledge and professional skills cannot bring idiot in our changing external environment and knowing how to wisely understand and live as a result.

Violet is our communications

The outer part of the rainbow is communications. It means nurturing care to communicate, to be understood and to understand. It means being open to feedback and improving how we relate to people on a personal basis. It also means using the power of internet networks to reach out to other important people in our lives. Communications enables us to live the colors in a manner that possesses all the different colors, respecting our work and our relationships.

In closing, we urge everyone to truly live a rainbow life, appreciating the beauty of all the colors and therefore living God's wonderful design. We can live all the colors if we focus on the present moment and the colors of the day of this moment. So we bring in the past, for it is your harvest. The future within if we live the present moment well. May you have a rainbow day and life!

Tita Bada Puongco is CEO and President of Bada Enterprises Management Consulting. Tita Bada is a 29-year old company with over 1,000 employees/clients in Asia and thousands of participants in public offerings, covering a wide spectrum of business and government sectors. Tita Bada is the AWARDS, academic institutions, professional and socio-civic associations. Isabel specializes in customized, cutting-edge organizational interventions and training solutions based on its Enterprise Development Framework.

Tita Bada Puongco is Founder and President of Ascella Enterprise Development Consulting, a leading provider of customized organization development and training services in ASEAN. These solutions include strategy development and execution, management and leadership, brand management, innovation and human resource systems. For feedback please email author at tita.puongco@asellaconsult.com.ph or at tita.puongco@yahoo.com

For the Lord

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SOB, DD

I THINK IT IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR THE WORKER TO KNOW how much his work is worth. For some, they would mean every cent they receive as salary for the work they do. Some would consider the degree of the finishing of the work they have done. Others would relish the thought that they have made people happy through their work, such as their families or those they serve in their work or even the multitude in society who enjoy the product of their work. Such awareness of the value of one's work and the degree of such awareness would motivate the worker to perform his duty tasks accordingly.

Those who believe in God and who consider Him as the Giver of life and everything in life, including one's work, would find the value of their work in reference to their relationship with Him. The truth that every service, every product of the worker is an earnest acknowledgment for it based on the words of Jesus Himself. The worker should realize that his work, even the very insignificant ones, count and in what it much greater than what the world can give—*God Himself* is the recipient of every work and service done by the believer. This awareness of the value of his work motivates for the worker to do his job as best as he can, since he does it for the Great God.

Moreover, it would be very rewarding for the worker to realize that the Almighty God appreciates whatever is done for him not because of the qualifications or position of the worker but because of his love and dedication the worker has in the very depths of his heart and being. While the worker tries to update his work knowledge and skills in order to do his job well and please his earthly master, he should also realize every effort to develop any other thought that he could please God through his work and rise he will be rewarded by Him more than his fellow workers.

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

Why they are 'least'

By Teresa R. Tuvay, OCDS

MORE THAN THE HOME, THE WORKPLACE EXPOSES US TO SO many kinds of people from all walks of life. You'll see this during company gatherings like Christmas parties or anniversaries. From their appointment you can distinguish the rich from the poor, the old rich from the new rich, the enthusiastic from the cynics, and etc. What do you think are the fruits of these co-workers, the "least brothers of mine" that Jesus speaks about? Perhaps you will say rightly that it is the justice, the messages or the utility put across during any office year. In this way, you can consider the positive measure of the faculty they bring along to their company garden that they are indeed the sweetest, or you may be second to find them, clothe them, give their children toys—which is good because it is sharing what you have with those who have less.

But for me, it's not enough. I would like to give more to Christ the King. I also count among the least of my brothers as the workplace those who disappoint or irritate me because of their habitually ill behavior, mediocre performance, malfunction or corrupt practices. Because for me Christ is a king, then I do as He commands. I "lend" them my love, my patience, my kindness, my time, I "clothe" them by correctly forgiving their shortcomings, and I try to bring joy to them by being the first to smile when I meet them.

I consider them among the "least" because they are not aware that Christ dwells in them. What a deprivation! If they knew that shining inside their souls is the brightest star, they would not waste time in accordance with the commands, and therefore drop their crafty, self-destructive ways. Some will try to take advantage of me, some others will think I am stupid for believing this way, but it hardly matters. What matters most is surrendering my will to the One who knows everything, can do everything, and is present in everything.

Save the Children

Director of Program Implementation

Responsible for providing leadership across all program offices in quality program implementation and provides direction and monitoring of the field offices. These include program design and implementation management, sponsorship/ program delivery operations, logistics, emergency response and preparedness management, financial, and knowledge of grant-funded projects that may be directly managed by Child Fund International.

1. Lead program design and implementation across offices through the effective use of the agency's fresh, all change model particularly in being the innovator by developed and proven evidence-based replicable breakthrough solutions, achieving results at scale through effective implementation of best practices, programmatic and policies for children leveraging the agency's knowledge to demonstrate impact at scale, and building partnerships with children, and society organizations, communities, governments and the private sector.
2. Builds and strengthen a culture of quality program implementation and capability to address local mandate of child empowerment and emergency response where flexibility, adaptability, quick-effective response, multiple roles, and project management become second nature
   a. Builds field emergency preparedness and response capability as needed
   b. Ensures teamwork, replicable and scalable programs, contributions to and gains from roll-out of global initiatives, successful pilot innovations to reach to scale, and forging effective partnership at the field level
3. Actively collaborates with the Division Program Development and Quality for nutritional advisory, advocacy, social mobilization, business development / proposal support, monitoring and evaluation and country office strategy processes ensuring field experience – achievements and challenges in the process.
4. Actively collaborates with the Senior Manager Member Service for member service product and culture, communication, fundraising, campaigns/social media, and sponsorship relations and retention
5. Responsible for human resource management and administration management within the program office and for all program offices staff in consultation with the respective Division
6. As a member of the SMT, represents the agency before local government representatives

Reports to: Country Director

Supervises: Directly and indirectly all field program staff across all program offices involved in program delivery logistics, operations and finance, and program support staff in the field

Collaborates with: Senior Management Team members, Program Development and Quality advisors on thematic areas, monitoring and evaluation, advocacy, business development, and Member Service specialists communication, fundraising, campaign and social media, Support Service managers in human resource, finance, administration, and logistics

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

a. Post graduate/master degree in development or other social sciences and 10+ years management experience of running country programs, exposure to different countries would be an advantage
b. Solid experience and understanding in managing at least 3 of the sectoral programs of Education, Nutrition and Health, WASH, Emergencies, Child Rights Governance, and Child Protection
c. Demonstrates experience in leading, motivating and developing others and in organizing and managing teams as needed, modeling flexibility, collaboration resiliency and a sense of urgency and purpose needed in both development and emergency context.
d. Substantial experiences and knowledge of effective financial and budgetary control and securing and managing grants such as those from USAID, AUSAID, BMA, AECID, ECHO and other similar institutions.
e. Strong results orientation with demonstrates track record of leading change within the organization and with other stakeholders and partners.
f. Ability to analyze information, evaluate options and to think and plan strategically
g. An in depth understanding of national and international development issues in particular in relation to children
h. Highly developed interpersonal, written and cognitive communication skills including influencing, negotiation and coaching and expressing a compelling vision to internal team and partners and stakeholders
i. Experience of solving complex issues through analysis, definition of a clear way forward and ensuring buy in
j. Commitment to and expected ability to demonstrate and model these the Children values of accountability, Ambition, Collaboration, Creativity, Integrity, Save the Children's principles and rights-based approaches

Manager, Finance and Grants

1. Reports directly to the Director of Finance and is responsible in assisting on the development of the annual fiscal year budget. Responsible in the monitoring, controlling, completion of sponsorship and grant contract budget, monitoring of the target spending plans of the Program Offices. Manages the Country Office financial systems. Manages the performance and development of the Finance staff.
2. Ensures adherence to all internationally accepted and Country Office policies and systems through conduct of internal audits or other operational centers. Ensures availability of funds from Program Offices and the Country Office.
3. Leads in facilitating the release of timely information thereof for accurate and systematic accounting of grant transactions.
4. Responsible for the accurate and timely submission of financial reports and attendant schedules/attachments to SC International Regional Office, donors and government regulatory agencies.

Reports to: Director of Finance

Supervises: Finance Officer, Accountant, Finance Assistant

Collaborates with: SMT and Managers / Budget holders

Provides functional guidance to field office Finance staff in all aspects of work

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

1. Must be a chartered accountant with 6 years work experience, 2 years of which in a managerial capacity in finance department of a national or international organization (experience within the not for profit/voluntary sector would be an advantage)
2. Understanding of financial systems and procedures, planning and budgeting, and ability to analyze complex financial issues. Experience in an international environment and knowledge on the use of donor regulations (knowledge of SIDA and ASNIDSSO systems would be an asset). Strong communication and interpersonal skills. Ability to perform multi tasking and ability to work on tight deadlines.
3. Motivated and self-starter, flexible to adapt with strong communication and interpersonal skills, and ability to express ideas and convey the message across.
4. Ability to work in a multicultural/cross cultural environment adaptable and flexible.
5. Must have a high sense of urgency and self-motivated work ethic. Commitment to and expected ability to demonstrate and model Save the Children values of Accountability, Ambition, Collaboration, Creativity, Integrity, Save the Children's principles and approaches.

Deadline is 6 DEC. Submit application letter, curriculum vitae, and other supporting documents to the address indicated in the position. We will contact only qualified candidates for interview. Only candidates with the most appropriate / outstanding skill and experience will be contacted.

Applications may also be submitted via e-mail to recruitment.philippines@savethechildren.org. Please write the position you are applying for in the subject line of your e-mail. Only candidates with the most appropriate / outstanding skill and experience will be contacted.

Save the Children is the world's leading independent organization for children, working in over 120 countries around the world. Our mission is to inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children and to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives. Save the Children envisions a world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development and participation.

Save the Children pursues and protects the rights of children from emergency relief to long-term development. We work directly with children, families, communities, and locally-organized, non-violent and local governments to facilitate change that positively affects the lives of children. We also work with other organizations, including the United Nations, to provide assistance to children and their families in times of emergency. Save the Children's programs reach the most vulnerable children, and our emphasis is on working with communities, local service delivery and policy people, children affected by emergencies and other disasters. Over most children through people who are trained and supported by Save the Children staff. Save the Children's programs are designed to bring about lasting change in the way children are treated in their homes, communities and countries. Executive Director announced the creation of Save the Children Fund in the Philippines for implementing and supporting programs in the Australia areas, namely: Child Protection, Health and Nutrition, Education, Emergencies and Save the Child Rights Governance.

Save the Children has been working in more than 30 countries in the Philippines, and more than 80 years worldwide.

Save the Children member centers for international programs. Save the Children can serve implementation region as region of the most complementary change areas in international programs and advocacy for children are delivered through a single management structure. This is organized in three areas: Asia, Africa, and Americas. The Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO) is based in Bangkok, Thailand and covers 14 countries in the region.

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The position of Director, Program Implementation is a managerial position in the Philippine Country Program of Save the Children and the incumbent of Manager, Finance and Grants is the position. The recruitment for these positions are managed by the executive process.

CLASSIFIEDS

dti

Supply and Delivery of Solutions (Software), Hardware and Peripherals for the Implementation of the DTI Information Systems Strategic Plan

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Bohol
Bid and Award Committee
Tagbilaran, Bohol

INVITATION TO BID

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Bohol
Bid and Awards Committee
Capitol Site, Tagbilaran City

INVITATION TO BID

PMAP to hold Makatao Awards and election of new officers and directors

MASS MEDIA TOUCHES VIRTUALLY every aspect of our daily lives. It plays a significant role in shaping public perceptions on a variety of important issues, both through the information it disseminates through them, and through the interesting views they potray upon the information. Mass communicators or talk show hosts are insightful and judicious in their reporting, citizens can play a more instrumental role in the many issues and attitudes that shapes their communities.

This year, the People Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) will recognize organizations, programs and individuals who have contributed to advancing public understanding of the role and impact of good people management in both the public and private sectors in the country through the 1st PMAP Makatao Awards for Media Excellence. The momentous event will be held during the 2012 PMAP General Membership Assembly (GMA) at Holiday Inn Galleria, Makati City on Nov. 23, 2011.

Another highlight of the occasion is the broadcast on "Matters Before Enacting Makatao Reporting" which will be led by a panel of distinguished personalities from the media industry namely Peter Bluengil (Manila Radio Bureau Head of ABS-CBN Broadcasting Group), Sandy Prieto Romualdez, Chairman and CEO of Philippine Daily Inquirer, and multi-award winning TV journalist Atanda Soho who presided the News of the World 5 Public Affairs.

PMAP members are also encouraged to exercise their right to vote for the next leaders of the association. There will be a Candidates' Forum that will start at 2:00 PM during the GMA proper. Voting period starts at 1 pm. The official list of candidates has been sent out to the members through mails and email blast along with proxy forms for those who will not be able to attend the event.

The GMA is presented in association with HR Excellent, the Association of Skilled Filipinos Professionals for the Food Industry. Expect lots of food treats during the event.

Diabetasol lets people 'Be In Control' for a sweet and healthy life

C'WAS TRULY AN EXCEPTIONAL AND FUN-filled day as Diabetasol, the specialized Nutritious Powder Milk and Corn Calorie Sweetener, which technically stabilizes manage their sugar levels the delicious way, held its first big public event, "Be In Control with Diabetasol" at the Activity Center of Market! Market! in Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City.

As the day progressed, there were also educational talks and before the morning session ended, Novartis Physician and Managed Market Head, Dr. Jesse Bernardino, gave a presentation about the benefits of taking Diabetasol for Breakfast and snacks, emphasizing what Diabetasol can offer to diabetic consumers. The Medical Nutritionist-Dietitian Group led by the Immediate Past Vice President of the Nutritionist Dietitians' Association of the Philippines (NDAP) and a multi-awarded doctor of the NDAP-2011 Healthy Eating Certification Program, Felicidad Fernandez, RND.

Fernandez, known as a reputable Bicolana woman, demonstrated different yet low impact forms of exercise highly suitable for people with emotional conditions such as hypertension and diabetes.

The afternoon session served patrons attending as the morning activities, which was a variety of work as several attendees rumbled up to more than 4,000 seated on their feathered station activities and fortified activities of brand partners. People also got up to dance Diabetasol-themed choreographed by Kuya Rodel. Subic completed the Diabetasol-healthcheck station by putting doctors and nutritionists to assist consumers with their medical and diet concerns.

The after-noon was further maximized by a demo on the Combo, the Mami and Biggest Boss Diabetasol Cooking Challenge, which was hosted by Novartis Powder Milk and Corn Calorie Sweetener, which technically stabilizes manage their sugar levels the delicious way, held its first big public event, "Be In Control with Diabetasol" at the Activity Center of Market! Market! in Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City.

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The after-noon was further maximized by a demo on the Combo, the Mami and Biggest Boss Diabetasol Cooking Challenge, which was hosted by renowned cooks in the world today which combined Filipino and international chefs. This was followed by an entertaining lap loop routine from the new boy noise makers Brothers. Captivated cast to see, the audience was further mesmerized by the exciting SBM Go Girls with sexy dance energies Regina Pino powered Dance number.

One of the event's major highlights was a Culinary School Cook-Off, a cooking competition participated by top students from some of the country's top culinary schools. Anchored by Jessie Condes, this event showed off their culinary skills despite the very short time allowed. Diabetasol came up with delectable beverage and culinary desserts using Diabetasol products. Chef Tristan Encarnacion, culinary head of Diabetasol, served as event's host among the different contestants. The audience deemed that one can have a glass of sweet dessert and not feel guilty because of Diabetasol Corn Calorie Sweetener.

Before the day ended, Nestlé Kyla announced the winners of the Culinary School Cook-Off competition which was topped by the Sorbonne University. Their winning recipe comes included Diabetasol products as its ingredients – a lovely drink called "Mocha Mint." Diabetasol Corn Calorie Sweetener was creatively presented in a rich beverage glass. Its color for audience and judges were also amazed.

The culinary entry of luscious desserts – Chocolate Mousse, Cappuccino Roll and Diabetasol's Sweet Beverage blew the judges away.

Diabetasol is a specially formulated nutritious powder packed with 17 essential vitamins and 11 minerals that are vital to daily nutrition. This delicious breakfast and snack health habit, designed for a joyful and stress-free way of managing diabetes, comes in three yummy flavors: Chocolate, Cappuccino and Vanilla. Diabetasol is available in Powder Milk and Corn Calorie Sweetener and comes in convenient packs of 300 grams, 600 grams, 1 kilo, 2 kilos and 900 grams.

This nutritiously delicious and affordable product is made by Nutrition International.

Join the Diabetasol Breakfast Club, simply call Nestlé at (02) 8892-0000 to become a member. Enjoy exciting benefits and discounts are in store for the loyal members in partnership with Shangri-La Hotels International and Manila Ice Skating Center.

School: Diabetasol Breakfast Club's objective is to encourage Filipinos to feel confident that they can life in Control with their less diagetic diabetes.

eBurol online viewing

Gladys Ar

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"The Lord is my Shepherd. I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside quiet waters, He restores my soul."

Psalm 23: 1-3

JIMMY O. YAOKASIN

Of Tacloban City, Leyte

Joined his Creator on Saturday, November 19, 2011.

Beloved husband to **Carmen Tiu**, Loving father to **Jimjim** and **Annely**, **Jerry** and **Kathleen**, Doting grandfather to **Amber**, **Joshner**, **Kyla**, **Kieffer**, **King** and **Adrielle**.

His remains lie in rest at St. Peter's Memorial Chapel in Real Street, Tacloban City.

Interment will be announced later.

"In Christ all shall be made alive." – 1 Corinthians 15:22

ROMEO OLFATO MARANAN

Peacefully joined the Creator on November 17, 2011 at the age of 74.

His bereaved wife Rosalinda; children Rowie, Raymund and Mario Christian; grandchildren; relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 O. Asuncion Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, November 22, 2011 at the Tunasan Public Cemetery, Tunasan, Buenavoy, after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at the St. John the Evangelist Church (Tunasan Church).

Thank you for the moments
Your goodness shared with us during
Our time of grief and remembering

Our Beloved

Ricardo Quelbio Baluya

March 30, 1934 – November 15, 2011

Our deepest gratitude for all those who
offered Masses and Prayers
and for your sympathy

In obituary until a picture
can be a fitting tribute to your
departed loved one.

Please bring:

Business Documents

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

- Copy of Death Certificate
- Two identification documents (ID)

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

Matthew 10:39

CLASSIFIEDS

Single Mom leads neighborhood to productivity

SCRAP FABRIC MATERIALS CAN TURN INTO INCOME. THIS is the mantra of Marcelle Veloria when they submitted a proposal to DOLE - NCR Manila parian Field Office for the livelihood enhancement project on scrap fabric cloth recycling. The organization provides alternative income to twenty (20) women beneficiaries.

In August 2011, the Department of Labor and Employment – National Capital Region, through its Manila parian Field Office, facilitated the release of P205,000.00 for the livelihood enhancement project of Marcelle Scrap to Riches (MSTR), Inc., a group of home-based women workers in Sucat, Parañaque.

"We want to help them sustain the business by providing them with additional equipment and raw materials. With the said amount, the group purchased five (5) hi-speed sewing machines, three (3) units of edging machines, (3) bales of scrap fabric (rebosa and t-shirt) and 100 rolls of thread. Our Manila parian Field Office provided them with complete package assistance that includes social preparation and basic project management orientation," said DOLE - NCR Regional Director Peter Anthony G. Laguesma.

Director Benevenuto C. Aldaba said that the leadership qualities of Marcelle's president, has been proven to be one of the best assets. "I entertain no doubt that this noble project will go a long way in helping the disadvantaged group of workers improve their socio-economic condition. She is a pertinent in solving government problem on poverty reduction. She is the DOLE-NCR Manila parian Field Office, which resulted to the release of the grant.

Herminia B. Calingasan, MSTR president, went to work six months in three cashiers all at the same time to raise and support her three kids. To augment her earnings, she started sewing pranela wipes at night after finishing out three cashiers during the day.

"Noong panahon po ako, siya nakitagan ko pang bilang mamimera ng pinagkakitaan ko. Pag-uwi ko sa aking mansanas po ako ng donation at RAGMOP. Ito sa mga kandesent at uwak na di ko kain," she said. She preferred to stay home during her spare time to make rags, doormats and pranela instead of loitering around the neighborhood being idle.

Dina started the scrap fabric business with a rented sewing machine and borrowed P5,000.00 to buy the raw materials in 2001. She started with 300 kilos of scrap fabric per month and sells them on a consignment basis.

When the business started to pick-up and established to mark among her customers, Dina trained five of her neighbors, who were interested to learn the trade. "Naging tao po ako ng Ayuda sa mga kinakasama noong wala pa akong kinalaman. Ang mga panahon po nila ay nakasama rin sa pagiging matagumpay ng mga produkto na sa mga kumpanya," she narrates.

They started to borrow the additional capital from a lending company in Pandacan in order to sustain their need for more scrap materials and rentals for sewing machines. However, the team's profit was just enough to pay for their interest of the money they borrowed.

Congressman Rodel S. Sabay and Vice Mayor Gus Tambunting heed the call for additional sewing machines and donated 1 high speed sewing machines each to help them in the production. But her sewers are mostly full-time mothers who cannot afford to buy their own sewing machines, thus, keeping up with the demand becomes difficult.

At present, Dina has twenty sewers and what used to be 300 kilos per month of raw materials is now 3 tons per month which is equivalent to 2,000 kilos monthly and they supply their goods to construction firms, hardware stores, auto service centers and janitorial services.

"Sa hindi ng dahilang bawat ng pinagkaabalang DOLE at aking ang Kumbinasyon ng mga bawat isa na pwede ng Pabili ng bawat araw-araw" ratang pagmamay pinapakita ang pulitikal kung dapat sa mga owner na kailangan maselan ito sa aking pero ma-achieve bayan ang aming mga anak at ibibigay ng pagtatrabaho. Bahay pero sa pangangailangan ng pamilya," she said.

Dina wants to prove that single mothers can raise the family with dignity and hard work and never give in but of transferring the skills to those who wants to venture into the scrap fabric business. During training sessions she would always stress the value of time management her trainees. Pedro Tavero, whose interviewed for an secretary, would always remind them that, "time is gold".

With the group now venturing into bags, shirts, and other t pants aside from rags and doormats, Marcelle Scrap to Riches registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission in March this year. Indeed Marcelle Scrap to Riches (MSTR) Inc. is another living testament of how the DOLE continues to touch and uplift the lives of our countrymen through its livelihood projects.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

ARCHITECTS

OFFICE SUPPLY

MACHINERY/TOOLS

TUTORIAL/REVIEW

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CUBAO
Very near EDSA
Ignacio Santos Street
Shoreline 10 I
1,100-1,324
20 mil Pantaja
FOR JOINT DEVELOPMENT
233-1771 / 420-0000
09175258915

FOR SALE
HOUSE AND LOT

FOR SALE
WAREHOUSE BUILDING

HOUSE & LOT

ANTALA HTS 468m²

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

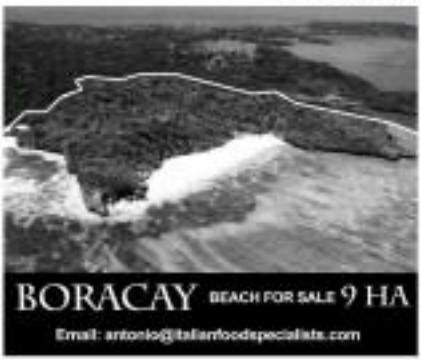
OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

FOR LEASE

CONDO/TOWNHOUSE

COMMERCIAL

CONDO/TOWNHOUSE



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Located at Sto. Tomas, Batangas

Contact Person: Mr. Rey Mallari
6F Marvin Plaza Bldg.
2153 Pasong Tamo St., Makati City

LOT

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BUSINESS RENTAL

MEMORIAL LOT

LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK GARDENS II LOTS
GARDEN OF ST. DAMITIO
SRP P 170,000.00 NEGO
SRP P 170,000.00 NEGO

ROOM & BOARD

LOAN & MORTGAGE

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

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CARS

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3 Bedroom
Townhouse
2 Toilet
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171/mo.
2/F Serrano Apt.
Angeles City
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WE CHOOSE

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

FOR LEASE - PRIME OFFICE SPACE 10TH FLR. LEPANTO BLDG.

(PEZA ACCREDITED)

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- READY FOR OCCUPANCY
-
- APPROX. 1,600.00 SQ. METER FLOOR AREA
-
-
-
-
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-

Interested Parties
Please Contact:

MR. PEDRO S. DELUSA
- Cel. No. 09209054819

MR. RAMONA A. CHICO
- Cel. No. 09209172369

PLUM INSURANCE AGENCY & BROKERS INCORPORATED
5th Flr. Lepanto Bldg.
Tel. Nos. 893-8808 to 09
Ext. 226 or 241

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

AUCTION SALE

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

OFFICE EQUIPMENT

PETS

WANTED TO BUY

BUY • SELL • PAWN
ROLEX
LOUIS VUITTON

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

PERSONAL

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE OF LOSS

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

P90,000/MONTH

WATER STATION EASY TO OWN

LEGAL NOTICE

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

OFFICE SUPERVISOR

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Real Estate
Broker Agent

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

ATTENTION
Publish/Update your:
- parts for sale
- products for sale
- house for sale
- apartment for rent

CLASSIFIEDS

OFFICE SPACE FOR LEASE

TWO (2) FLOORS OF 1,048 SQUARE METERS RENTABLE SPACE EACH

ONB CENTER, Km. 9, Sasa, Davao City
Tel. No. (082) 233-7703 or (082) 233-7777

DESCRIPTION: ONB Center is a 7-storey corporate center that will house One Network Bank's head office. The office space plans are conceived by virtue of the building's rectangular design, affording maximum use of the floor space.

ONB Center has approximately 1,048 rentable square meters of space in each of the 3rd and 4th floor of the office building.

The building has panoramic views in all directions, serving as a focal point in the area, 24/7 functioning elevators and CCTV, centralized water supply and alarm system, fire exit, comfort rooms, physical fitness gym, basketball court, and a chapel.

The rentable space will be ready for occupancy on April 2012.

The rentable space could be leased for a period of 2 years renewable for another 2 years.

PURPOSE: The leased premises shall be used only for office purposes of BPOs, Insurance Companies, Review Schools, Public Practice Firms, and other Private and/or Government Institutions.

Contact Person: Romulo C. Guerrero
Tel. No.: (082) 233-7713
Email: rcguerrero@onenetworkbank.com.ph

ONB
ONE NETWORK BANK

Looking for WAREHOUSE!

The world's leading Japanese multinational corporation manufacturer of agricultural machinery and equipment is in need for warehouse (with office) for lease:

- Prior by location: : **METRO MANILA (Preferably Quezon City)**
- Min. required area : Office +/- approx. 400 sq. meters
  Warehouse +/- approx. 5,000 sq. meters
- The warehouse must be constructed in steel with loading bay area, and with soil bearing test certificate.
- Property must be located along the main road, safe for employees and accessible to Public Utility Vehicle.
- BROKERS ARE WELCOME!

Please bring your proposal with location map/drawings, details of the property (sqm, price, etc.) to:
SAKAZAWA TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER & INDUSTRIAL CONSULTANCY, INC. (TTT-ICI)
EMAIL: tttici@pldtdsl.net Fax: 02-777-3699

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

RESOLUTION NO. 9388

Pursuant to the powers vested in it by the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code, R.A. No. 7166, 7691 and other related laws, the Commission on Elections has RESOLVED to adopt as it hereby RESOLVED to adopt the following Rules of Procedure governing the conduct of PRECINCTS and to fix the boundaries for the 2010 Philippine National Elections, the Philippine Overseas Elections, and Barangay Elections, Provinces of Laguna and Manila

GOVERNMENT	PERMISSIVE ACTIVITIES	PROHIBITED ACTS (COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS)
GOVERNMENT TO SAY, (PRE) & GOVERNMENT TO SAY (WHO)	PLEBISCITE PERIOD	
GOVERNMENT TO SAY (WHO)	Lifting the Appointment of Members of Parliament by the Commission	
GOVERNMENT TO SAY (WHO) TO GOVERNMENT (By Elections)	Posting of the Certified List of Voters	
GOVERNMENT TO SAY (WHO)	PLEBISCITE DAY	1. Issue New Hiring Of Individuals – Hiring, Promoting, Giving Authority, Hiring Consultants, Hiring Contractors (Sec. 261 (a), (1) 1987) 2. Undertaking any Public Works of (partially) Construction, Acquisition (Sec. 261 (a), (2) 1987) 3. Giving, donating Any Appropriation, Grant, Gratuity or Assistance (Sec. 261 (a), (3) 1987) 4. Making, Undertaking, Offering, Giving, Granting or Taking Advantage (Sec. 261 (a), (4) 1987) 5. Causing or Inducing or Aiding in the use of Appropriations, Administrative, etc. Officers to Transfer Funds from Lending Agency (Sec. 261 (a), (5) 1987) 6. Campaigning (Sec. 3, 1977) 7. Campaigning (Sec. 3, 1977) 8. Campaigning, Soliciting, Accepting and Campaigning for or against any Candidate or any Political Party (Sec. 261 (a), (6) 1987)
GOVERNMENT TO SAY (WHO)	LAST DAY OF PLEBISCITE PERIOD	

Let this Resolution be published in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation. The Deputy Executive Director for Operations shall furnish the Regional Election Directors of Region IV-A, Provincial Election Supervisor of Laguna, the City Election Officer of Calamba City, the Chairman of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the Secretary of the Department of Education, the Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Chairman of the Commission on Audit, the Solicitor General, the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights, the Chairman of the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor, the Chairman of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, the Chairman of the Laguna Lake Development Authority, the Chairman of the Laguna Lake Development Authority, the Chairman of the Commission on Higher Education, the Chairman of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights, the Chairman of the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor, the Chairman of the Metropolitan Manila

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

RESOLUTION NO. 9381

Promulgated: November 16, 2011

x - - -

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Invitation To Bid
Procurement of Various Medical Equipment for ASMM
Package 1/Lot A-B
IFC-ASMM-NCB-11-12

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a Grant from European Commission being administered by the World Bank toward the cost of *Health Sector Reform Project*, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this Grant to payments under the Contract for *Procurement of Various Medical Equipment for ASMM, Package 1/Lot A-B; Ref. No.IFC-ASMM-NCB-11-12*.

2. The *Department of Health (DOH)* now invites bids for *Procurement of Various Medical Equipment for ASMM, Package 1/Lot A-B*. Delivery of the Goods is required within forty five (45) days upon receipt of the Notice to Proceed. Bidders should have completed, within *three (3) years* from the date of deadline for submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II. Instructions to Bidders.

3. Bidding will be conducted in accordance with the set procedures for open competitive bidding as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", with some amendments, as stated in these Bidding Documents and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the applicable procurement guidelines of the World Bank. The contract shall be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification. The Estimated Project Cost (EPC) is *Forty Five Million Two Hundred Only Thousand Five Hundred Philippine Pesos (PHP45,201,500.00)* and EPC per lot as follows:

Lot No.	Item No.	DESCRIPTION	EPC (PHP)
A	1-14	Miscellaneous Medical Equipment	34,974,500.00
B	1-3	Diagnostic/Clinical Laboratory Medical Equipment	10,240,000.00
C	1-15	Dental Medical Equipment	2,987,000.00
D	1-17	ARV/Viral Medical Equipment	4,274,000.00

4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from *CODEC Secretariat at the Ground Floor, Bldg. 6, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given above during 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mondays to Fridays.

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on *November 20 – December 16, 2011* from the address above and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Php1,500.00.

It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity, provided that Bidders shall pay the nonrefundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

6. The *DOH* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on *December 12, 2011, 10:00A.M.* at *CODEC Conference Room at the Ground Floor, Bldg. 6, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila*, which shall be open to all interested parties.

7. Bids must be delivered to the address above on or before *December 16, 2011, 10:00A.M.*. All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the following amounts and form:

Lot No.	Item	Form of Bid Security (Amount must be Equivalent to 2% of EPC)	Form of Bid Security (Amount must be Equivalent to 5% of EPC)
A	1-14	699,490.00	699,490.00
B	1-3	204,800.00	512,000.00
C	1-15	59,740.00	149,350.00
D	1-17	85,480.00	213,700.00

Bid opening shall be on *December 16, 2011, 10:00A.M.* at *CODEC Conference Room at the Ground Floor, Bldg. 6, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila*. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address above. Late bids shall not be accepted.

8. The *DOH* reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

9. For further information, please refer to:
CODEC Secretariat
Department of Health
San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue,
Sta. Cruz, Manila
Tel. Nos. 743-8301 local 3021 to 3027; 3009 to 11
Facsimile No.: 741-8775

(sgd.)
MARGARET F. GRAIN, MD, MPH, CESO III
Assistant Secretary of Health
CODEC Chairperson

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Central Luzon Regional Office
Gapan City
Tel. No. (044) 935-2204/941-1108
Fax No. (044) 935-2202

INVITATION TO BID

PROCUREMENT OF 2012-2014 SECURITY SERVICES OF RPA REGION 3
(Project Reference No. : 2011-NBAC-NFA3SVCS)

The **National Food Authority Central Luzon Regional Office (NFA-CLRO)** through the Corporate Budget for the Calendar Year 2012 in the sum of Forty Four **Million Six Hundred Seventy One Thousand Four Hundred Sixteen Pesos (PHP44,671,416.00)**. Six first year only, being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to undertake under the contract for the Security Services requirements of **NFA Region III**. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

The **NFA-CLRO** now invites bids from **registered Security Agencies excluding cash escorts**, for the procurement of Security Services requirements of Region 3. Delivery of the Goods is required from the year 2012 to 2014 (36 months). Bidders should have completed, within *three (3) years* from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in **Section II. Instructions to Bidders**.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from November 21,2011 to December 12, 2011 during regular office hours from 8AM to 5 PM at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of **One Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (P150,000.00)**.

Immersion to the schedule of bidding activities:

Pre-Bid Conference	November 25, 2011 (9:00 AM)
Deadline for the Submission of Bids:	December 12, 2011 (9:00 AM)
Opening of Bids:	December 12, 2011 (9:00 AM)

The Pre-Bid Conference shall be open only to all interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before December 12, 2011 at 9:00 AM. All bids must be accompanied by bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.

Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.

Interested bidders may obtain further information or inspect the Bidding Documents during office hours at the following address:

ANGEL G. IMPERIAL, JR., MNSC Chairperson
c/o the NBAC Secretariat, National Food Authority Region III
Maharlika Highway, Cabanatuan City
Telefax: (044) 600-2204/600-8151/463-1108
Fax No.: (044) 935-2202

The National Food Authority - Central Luzon Regional Office reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) **ANGEL G. IMPERIAL, JR.**
Assistant Regional Director
NBAC Chairperson (NFA3)

Crystal Clear's newest H2O member

IN THE PHILIPPINES, there had been a boom for the purified water business as technology for water purification had been very much available in the market, and this resulted in water refilling stations sprouting in every barangay, municipality or cities around this country.

But none of them made much of an impact unlike Crystal Clear. A first taste of Crystal Clear is purified, it was cold and pure - tasting water immediately satisfies anyone who is thirsty.

With quality as their top priority by using only the best materials, strict manufacturing standards and toughest quality control measures, it was no surprise that Crystal Clear Purified Water became an instant hit among households, offices and just about any establishment.

And now, after months of waiting, Crystal Clear, one of the most popular names in the purified water business that provides safe and reliable drinking water introduces its newest family member, their lovable mascot: Cryst2-O!

Cryst2-O was born as the 3rd runner-up during Pramerica Now 2011, which was held at the SMX Convention Center in Pasay City. "We chose Franchise Asia as the venue to introduce Crystal Clear's mascot, Cryst2-O, a icebreaker droplet with a big grin, to the public because of the sheer number of visitors there. And we are very pleased with how this product is the trade show recognized by Cryst2-O," said Aaron Soler, Corporate Communications Head of Nestlé Waters Water Technologies, Inc., makers of Crystal Clear.

Now that its mascot is finally revealed to the public, Crystal Clear plans to use Cryst2-O to help spread its messages about the value and importance of safe drinking water to a lively and interactive way, and will surely take the crowd's attention to every event it visits.

However, Soler assures that Cryst2-O is no ordinary mascot since he is also a water expert. "As a water expert, he will have ready answers to questions about water. Wherever around, we hope to reach out to the young, so now everyone can play their part in water sustainability by conserving water. We are, indeed, very happy to welcome Cryst2-O as a new member of our Crystal Clear family" Soler points out.

With innovative efforts like this by Crystal Clear, educating the younger generation towards conserving water will sure be much easier and fun at the same time, especially for kids, who will soon have a better understanding about this important resource of water in their daily lives, and also the planet they live in.

For more details about Cryst2-O and Crystal Clear, visit http://www.crystalclear.com.ph.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. Arturo "Giant" K. Ragay Jr., whose picture appears above, has been terminated for cause and is no longer connected with Alternative Network Resources Unlimited Multi-Purpose Cooperative (ANR) since December 31, 2008.

Any or all transactions entered into or made by him on behalf of ANR will not be honored.

(Pub. Nov. 20, 2011)

Raymund Isaac and Great Image - a partnership to beat

What do you get when you combine the skills and wealth of experience of the country's pre-eminent fashion photographer and the country's biggest chain of portrait studios? Of course, you get nothing but a great fashion. In fact, it could very well be a dream team.

Great Image, the country's biggest portrait studio, recently signed on seven (7) studios located in metro Manila, recently engaged the expertise of Raymund Isaac, considered as the rock star of Philippine fashion photography, in a series of training programs designed for the former's corps of professional photographers.

Undergoing with its efforts to sustain market leadership, Great Image continues not only to set trends but also to revolutionize how portrait studios are being run entirely.

"Every shot is a Great Image studio is an experience in itself. And it is our goal to make this experience unique, unbelievably impressive and unforgettable," shares Tonks Palomo, Chief Executive Officer of Great Image.

Raymund Isaac will conduct the training in a six workshops for Great Image's 68 photographers in his Portfolio Studio in Makati on October 13 and 27, 2011. The two- day programs focused on technical as well as creative aspects of portraiture. It was two whole days of learning, sharing and exchange of artistic inputs between mentor and eager professionals.

"I am very proud to be mentoring with Great Image photographers. They have an impressive pool of professional photographers, all very creative. They learn from me and I also learn from them. At the end of the day, our goal was to uplift the level of photography that people get from Great Image and create the 'portrait experience' that people won't get anywhere else," says Isaac.

This is the second time that Great Image and Isaac are working together. In 2008, the alone conducted a series of photography workshops for the former's photographers.

"It is always refreshing to work with Raymund. Every Filipino photographer and photo enthusiast knows and looks up to him. At Great Image, we cannot settle for anything less than the best, and that's Raymund," adds Tonks Palomo.

With this creative partnership, one can expect nothing less than great from Great Image.

Great Image is located in all major malls nationwide.

Advertise in INQUIRER Libre
PAY THROUGH YOUR ACCOUNT
Get more exposure for your ad

Parents of child laborers in Sitio Diampuan, Tondo receive livelihood assistance

THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN BEING EXPLOITED AS LABOR is another issue that the government is trying to address. In a bid to help reduce the number of child laborers in Sitio Diampuan, Tondo, Manila, the municipal government of Manila, in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), launched a livelihood assistance program for parents of child laborers in the area.

Children help their parents earn a living scavenging for (and sifted) anything scrap that can be sold to a junk shop, like iron and aluminum pipes, plastic containers, empty bottles, old newspapers and the like. Children are also seen begging to help support their family with the income of their parents. Children as young as five years old carry the sack and, a chemical industry cleaner commonly sold in the area.

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Last year, a devastating fire razed the area, leaving many families homeless. Tools, cooking utensils, and other household items were destroyed in the fire. Children are also seen begging to help support their family with the income of their parents. Children as young as five years old carry the sack and, a chemical industry cleaner commonly sold in the area.

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Some boys dive the coolest waters of Baseco bay looking for metal strips and other floating garbage. The young boys dive into the murky waters to salvage the scrap materials and the short-lived rubbers offer sexual service to customers and hotel keepers in exchange for easy money. These boys are also exposed to a number of illnesses. This causes the loss of child-productive years in the area.

The government, led by the Office of the President, has declared its commitment to fight child labor through the intensification of actions towards achieving a child-friendly Philippines. The Department of Labor and Employment has the lead government agency implementing the Philippine Program Against Child Labor (PPACL) to provide its efforts to respond to this commitment.

DOLE-National Capital Region, in collaboration with the Manila Department of Social Welfare identified the said barangay as the recipient of the convergent project that aims to minimize the incidence of child labor in the area. DOLE-NCR awarded several livelihood projects to the parents of child laborers to augment the family income to keep their children in school and away from the dangerous scavenging in a living.

DOLE-NCR Regional Director Raymundo G. Agcaoili said, "Improving the income of the parents and their families' quality integrated across the livelihood, environmental, health, education and training programs is one of the strategies DOLE adopts to strengthen its commitment to prevent and eliminate the worst forms of child labor. This alongside with our strategic partnerships with other line agencies and public sector to intensify our advocacy and action on the national, regional, community and household levels."

DOLE-NCR in partnership with the Manila Department of Social Welfare - District Welfare Office I, and Barangay Dilimman Local Council, Barangay 105, Zone II identified sixty-seven (67) qualified beneficiaries for this project. A total of P101,000.00 worth of livelihood assistance package will be used in implementing P10,000.00 worth of goods or equipment per family as per identified livelihood.

Director Agcaoili further said we want to prepare the family for a long-term self-employment and develop their skills on basic entrepreneurship, business management and values education.

The culminating of the first session of the livelihood grant composed of 40 parent beneficiaries was observed with DOLE-NCR's celebration of the children's month, where as gift packages composed of bags, underground socks, chocolates and bath soaps are given to 100 pre-schooled kids.

Also present during the culminating activity were Dilimman Local Council, Barangay 105, Zone II

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